THE PILGRIM

VOL. 45 JANUARY, 1998 No. 1

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." I Peter 2:11

NEW YEAR WISHES

What shall I wish thee? Treasures of earth,
Songs in the springtime, pleasures and mirth,
Flowers on thy pathway, skies ever clear,--
Would this insure thee a happy New Year?

What shall I wish thee? What can be found,
Bringing thee sunshine all the year round,
Where is the treasure, lasting and dear,
That will insure thee a happy New Year?

Faith that increases, walking in light,
Hope that aboundeth, happy and bright,
Love that is perfect, casting out fear,--
These shall insure a happy New Year.

Peace in the Saviour, rest at His feet,
Smile of His countenance, radiant and sweet,
Joy in His presence, Christ ever near,--
This will insure thee a happy New Year.

--Selected from 1896 *Evangelical Visitor*

THE PILGRIM is a religious magazine published in the interests of the members of the Old Brethren Church. Subscription rate: $5.00 per year. Sample copies sent free on request.
Publishing editor: Leslie Cover
Address: THE PILGRIM, 19201 Cherokee Rd., Tuolumne, CA 95379

FORGIVENESS

On a recent trip to the California coast, my wife and I noticed especially the smooth, clean sand of the beach where the violent Pacific surf had swept away all marks left by people or animals. Each new year, each morning, in fact, each unit of time, God gives us a clean sheet of opportunity for the future like the smooth sand of the beach.

What we do with the next unit of time, therefore, is up to us. Depending on our past and our present circumstances, we need to repent, or grow, or learn, or communicate, or make promises, or forgive. This last introduces the focus of this writing. Here at *The Pilgrim* we received this request from a reader:

"I would like to see an article on fully forgiving people so that the offender feels he is truly forgiven. The offended and the offender need this in order to reach full spiritual growth."

Forgiveness is one of the most vital subjects we can contemplate, for we need to have it and we need to give it. If we refuse to give it, according to Jesus' own words, we will not receive it from our heavenly Father. And without His forgiveness, we perish. Our reader has introduced a most important subject indeed.

One of my first thoughts on the request has to do with the term *fully* forgiving. Forgiveness that is not *full* forgiveness is not forgiveness at all. It is like the word *perfect.* We don't have more or less perfection, for perfection is absolute. So must forgiveness be complete and full.

Like the new year before us, forgiveness gives the person receiving it a clean slate --a new beginning. The tracks are washed off the sand. The beach is clean and fresh. We can go forward without condemnation.

We cannot place too much emphasis on our duty to forgive. If somehow Satan has deceived us into thinking we have no need of forgiveness, we may be careless about how we forgive others. But hear the Word of God: Romans 3:10, 11, 23,: "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God..." "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." King David pleads in Psalm 51: "Have mercy upon me, O God... blot out my transgression...wash me.. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities." If we understand God's laws and His expectations for His people, we don't have to be told that we need His mercy. Because we need His mercy, we must be merciful.

"I never forgive," General James Oglethorpe said to John Wesley.

"Then I hope, sir, "replied Wesley, "you never sin."

We hear, "I can forgive, but I can't forget!" Not sufficient! God says that He will not remember our sins: "I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." This is a feature of the new covenant prophesied in Jeremiah 31 and repeated in Hebrews 8:8-13 and 10:16,17. Is it possible that God could or would forget? I believe He can dismiss from His memory anything undesirable. But we say we can't do this. If we will to forget any offense, slight, or sin against us, God will help us in it. At least if we would someday be reminded of it, we could remember it without resentment--totally free from any evil thought of retaliation.

Why not, then, just forget a hurt or an insult? Put it out of your mind. Say it doesn't matter--forget it. To forget before you forgive is backwards. In the first place, it is next to impossible. We must admit to ourselves that it was painful and then consciously forgive. Forgive and then forget, but never the other way around.

Quoting from *The Freedom of Forgiveness* by David Augsburger:

"So few sins can be paid for, and so very seldom does the victim possess the power or the advantage to demand payment.

"In most cases, 'making things right' is beyond possibility! Repayment is impossible!

"So, here's where revenge comes in. If you cannot get equal payment or restitution out of the man who's wronged you, at least you can get revenge. Pay him back in kind, tit for tat. Serve him the same sauce.

"'Get even' with him--if you insist. But remember, to get even, you make yourself even with your enemy. You bring yourself down to his level, and below...

"Revenge is the most worthless weapon in the world. It ruins the avenger while more firmly confirming the enemy in his wrong. It initiates an endless flight down the bottomless stairway of rancor, reprisals, and ruthless retaliation."

The answer is Jesus' way of forgiveness. Clear the air. Wash the sand clean of defects. Experience the freedom and peace that comes when we forgive.

As the question states, "The offended and the offender need this in order to reach full spiritual growth." For the offender there can be two courses, and neither promotes spiritual growth. If he is not forgiven, he can become careless and even justified in his wrong deed if he sees a spirit of revenge. "Why should I worry? He is paying me back for all I did." On the other hand, he might be "swallowed up with overmuch sorrow" as Paul warned in II Cor. 2:7. In either case growth is hindered.

For the one who has received the wrong and not been able to forgive, the results are still worse. He can become bitter, filled with self-pity, or hateful if he resents instead of forgives. Besides this, he forfeits the forgiveness he needs for his own mistakes. He finds himself in needless bondage to hatred, and

missing the freedom and the spiritual growth he could have if he freely forgives.

There should be no question in our minds about the rightness of forgiving, because Jesus commanded it and practiced it Himself. From the cross, perhaps lying on it as the nails were driven, He cried, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." From this example we learn that we need not wait to forgive until one asks for it.

Nikita Krushchev claimed, "My sole difference with Christ is that when someone hits me on the right cheek, I hit him on the left so hard that his head falls off." Violence is rampant in the world today and it is not just in Communist countries. In fact, the same writer, David Augsburger, reports, "In a recent year in America some six thousand persons died of gunshot wounds. Contrast this with Great Britain where there were fewer than thirty; France, under twenty; Belgium, less than a dozen."

In the world with these hostile and unforgiving characteristics, Jesus tells us, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." Using Jesus' way of peace, forgiveness, and non-resistance, we can be free to grow in Him by the power of His Holy Spirit. --L.C.

EARTHLY TREASURES WILL DECAY

With the chill winter air and frosty nights of this season the wood pile so carefully stacked last summer is far too quickly disappearing. Yet, it's worthwhile to see it diminish when we enjoy the heat of our trusty fireplace insert. Perhaps the next time you rest by a warmly radiating wood stove you, too, will consider how often we cherish the value of fire. With the warmth of a cheery fire in a stove or fireplace we heat our homes. With a hot fire a welder can manufacture a useful

implement. With a bright fire's light we can see to accomplish an important task.

And yet, fire can also be destructive. Newspaper accounts frequently detail the destruction of a building or a home by fire. Many of us have smoke detectors in our homes to warn us in case of fire, and we admonish our children, " Do not play with matches." We recently heard of a family whose home was burned to the ground, destroying all their earthly possessions. The mother commented that the worst loss was for their twelve year-old son who lost all his baseball trophies from Little League. These trophies were " irreplaceable," she said.

Our hearts go out to those who suffer loss in this way. We probably cannot fully comprehend the emotional impact of the burning of a family's home.

But what about the loss of a boy's trophies? What a graphic picture this loss is of the end of this life and the burning up of all of our earthly treasures. Our little trinkets and toys, all our "trophies" we have collected, our prized possessions as well as our accomplishments will be gone in a puff of smoke after God's judgment fire purifies them. That is, unless they have been done for God's glory, in God's strength, and in accord with God's will.

The Bible makes clear that a day is coming when the sum total of all that we have accomplished during our stay on this earth will be subjected to God's testing fires. This shouldn't surprise us, for we read in Hebrews 12:29: "For our God is a consuming fire."

I Corinthians 3:12-15 is the passage which takes us to the heart of the concept:

> "Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's

work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss..."

This future event holds the potential for far greater loss than the mere burning of earthly trophies. This future time will reveal how much of this earth's time we have wasted and spent on meaningless pursuits, squandered on selfishness, consumed on our own agenda rather than on God's work.

This future day of burning away such waste should spur us on to aspire for that which will bring God glory.

The Greek word which is translated "reward" is also used in our Bibles for "wages" and "hire". It can mean either dues paid for work, or a reward in the classic sense of the fruit naturally resulting from toils and endeavors. It includes both the rewards which God bestows, or will bestow, upon our good deeds and endeavors and also includes punishments one justly has earned.

In this sense, considering future rewards is both a comfort to the faithful believer and also a fearful prospect for the spiritually lazy or the unbeliever. Consider that the Lord promises in Revelation 22:12, "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

Would you like to consider more on this subject? We might suggest taking the time to examine some of these Scriptures: Psalms 19:11; Proverbs 11:18; Matthew 6:1,4-6; Matthew 6:16, 18; I Corinthians 3:8; Hebrews 10:35; Hebrews 11:26; and II John 8.

--Kenneth Johnson
Modesto, California

When a person realizes how much he needs the Saviour he is a lot better off than when he thought he was 'good enough.'

HYMNS WE LOVE

DARK VICTORY: A true story by Bess A. Olson.

Evening shadows had long darkened the Clydeside Manse in Inellan, Scotland. Still the pastor did not make a light. He needed no lamp to guide his steps as he paced restlessly back and forth in the familiar room. His rugged, Scot's face, usually so alive with tenderness and understanding, was haggard with inward suffering. It seemed as if the combined loneliness, disappointment, and heartaches of the past had come upon him in an overwhelming flood.

With a moan he threw himself into a chair and held his head in hands that shook. "Dear God," he whispered brokenly. "How long? How long?"

It was a strange cry to come from the lips of a man, barely forty; in good health and a success in his chosen field. Yet on the evening of June 6, 1882, George Matheson felt that life had little to offer him. Disappointments met him at every turn. And all of his trouble seemed bound up in one inescapable, unalterable fact--he was blind!

Blind! He ought to be used to the thought, he mused, after twenty years of doing without his eyes. Longer, really, for he had known from boyhood that his sight was failing. He had learned, early, to make the best of his keen memory so that he had always stood at the head of his class.

He had learned, early, to overcome heartache. Today, however, on his sister's wedding day, old memories had hurt again. He had been but eighteen, his sight unmistakably gone, when she had left him too. Loneliness had become his lifelong companion. He had never married.

He had learned to bless the tragedy, though, for it had thrown him desperately into his studies at Glasgow University. In spite of his blindness, at nineteen, he had graduated, head and shoulders above his schoolmates. The grief and loneliness had

done more. They had drawn him closer to Him, Whose love would never fail--would never let him go.

Suddenly the almost unbearable weight lifted. The blind man's heart surged in a return of love and devotion to the One Who through all of the darkness had ever been faithful As if a voice were speaking to him he listened, his lips forming words--

"O, Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee.
I give Thee back the life I owe,
That in Thine ocean depths the flow may richer, fuller be.

"O Light, that followest all my way,"
he continued, the lines coming easily.
"I yield my flickering torch to Thee--"
His heart rose with exultation--
"O joy, that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee--"

Four stanzas he wrote without hesitation. He said later, "I had the impression of having it dictated to me by some inward voice, not of working it out myself. I am quite sure that the whole work was completed in five minutes, and equally sure that it never received at my hands any retouching or correction."

The hymn took Scotland by storm. Many found comfort in the song written out of the grief of another. Its popularity spread to other lands and today after seventy years (125 years now) it is still cheering distressed hearts. To George Matheson, it was ever as a "dayspring from on high," a source of release in many a dark day.

Dr. George Matheson was born in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1842. He began the pastorate at the Inellan church where the hymn was written, at the age of twenty-four and remained there eighteen years, greatly beloved by the members. During that

time he began to write deep, theological works. He became known outside Inellan.

"Have you heard the blind preacher of Clydeside?" people asked one another.

"What wonderful truths he gives from God's Word!" they said. "You would never think he was blind. He gives his Scripture references, chapter and verse with never a mistake!"

One day a royal summons came for him from Queen Victoria. He was to preach at Balmoral Castle. It was reported the Queen was "immensely inspired and very grateful."

When George Matheson was forty-four years old he was called to St. Bernard's Church in Edinburgh. For thirteen years he ably ministered to its two thousand members. He became very well known. People came from far and near to hear him. Young men, especially, were attracted to him.

Much of his work as a scholar and theologian was published at this time. His brilliant mind urged him on in the field of scholarship. His eager mind thirsted for more learning. But once again the old barrier stopped him. His blindness made intense research an impossibility. Like a great wall his affliction seemed to shut him off from achievement. Was it always to be thus? Reaching out for greater activity and finding--frustration?

Then--"O Cross, that liftest up my head,

I dare not ask to fly from thee,"

The words given a dozen years before gripped him afresh. George Matheson bowed his head in complete surrender and murmured,

"I lay in dust life's glory dead,

"And from the ground there blossoms red, life that shall endless be."

With all of his heart he turned to spiritual things, finding God more precious than human love, accomplishments, or fame. His writings changed to the devotional, continuing until

his death in 1906, enriching many. His own life deepened, blessing all who heard him.

Dr. Parkhurst of New York said after hearing him, "He prays, and such a prayer! It seems profane to write about it. Though his sight is eclipsed, he does see God, he does see into the hearts of his people. For forty minutes he preached. We were instructed, refreshed, inspired!"

--from the 1954 *Sunday School Herald*

SECURITY

God is faithful, God is true.
What He tells us, He will do.
We can trust Him for our need.
He is powerful; He will lead.

We should trust Him every day.
He will always show the way.
If we seek Him, He is there.
He is present everywhere.

Through our trials, in our woe,
He will help us, onward go.
For each moment, strength He'll send;
Faithful always to the end.

Faithful still our God will be,
When He calls us, "Come to Me."
Then this faithful God we'll see,
Always in eternity.

--James Beery

ADDRESS CORRECTION: Glenn Wells
Rt. 1, Box 336 Taylorsville, MS 39168
(601) 785-9668

OBITUARY

WILLIAM DAVID HITCH was born in Whittier, California, to Earl and Mary (Bowman) Hitch on November 24, 1912, and passed away December 5, 1997, at his home near Long Barn, California.

When Daddy was two years old, he with his family moved to Modesto, California, where he lived until August, 1946. Up until this time his occupation was mostly farming.

On December 3, 1933, he married Catherine Flora of Nappanee, Indiana, and to this union were born one son and three daughters, Earl Hitch of Sugar Pine, CA; Carol Cover and Nancy Zelazny of Tuolumne, CA; and Rachel Reyes of Ventura, CA. They were blessed with sixty-four years of married life.

In 1934 Daddy and Mama answered the call of Jesus and were baptized and joined the Old Brethren Church.

In August of 1946 he with his family moved to Long Barn where he operated a shingle mill, did tree felling, and sold firewood. For quite a few years he worked at Dodge Ridge and later worked for the Forest Service at June Lake, California, for six summers.

He retired from Cal Trans after 1974, and in retirement he and Catherine spent part of sixteen winters in the desert at Tecopa, California, where he enjoyed the health benefits of the hot springs.

Daddy was respected and loved by his neighbors and friends and was a great handyman to the neighborhood and enjoyed woodworking in his shop.

He was preceded in death by his parents and is survived by two sisters: Barbara Hitch of Merced, California; and Esther Cover of Modesto, California; and many nieces and nephews.

William leaves to mourn his passing, his wife, four children, thirteen grandchildren, twenty-five great grandchildren and many brethren and sisters and neighbors and friends.

We rest in the promise of Jesus, who said, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

The family wishes to express their gratitude for the support of all who have helped us at this time of sorrow. Funeral services were held December 8, at Terzich and Wilson Funeral Home in Sonora by Leslie Cover and Lloyd Wagner. Burial was in Wood Colony Cemetery near Salida.

--The Family

Happy New Year to all our readers. We praise God for our many faithful Christian friends. Thank you to all who have supported this publication with subscriptions and with writings or selections. Kenneth Martin has faithfully submitted his column on "Searching the Scriptures." Thanks to those supplying the Children's Page, to Bill Miller for address labels, to Sarah and Rhoda for typing and proofreading.

Renewal price is $5.00 per year. Your expiration date is beside your name on the address label. Past due dates may be underlined or in red. If you are receiving *The Pilgrim* free, please let us know if we should continue to send it.

We invite articles and selections but must reserve the right to print only what we see fitting.

Gift subscriptions and names for free sample copies are welcome.

God bless each one as we strive by His grace to serve one another in His Kingdom. --Leslie and Martha Cover

KNOWING CHRIST

(With this January issue, Brother Kenneth begins a new series of articles focusing on the name of Jesus Christ.)

Jesus came into the world to win the affection of every human heart. This attraction was to supersede all other desires. Not until this is accomplished in our hearts can we be saved from the power of sin and death.

To love Him in this magnitude requires a relationship with Him that spontaneously moves our hearts and tongues to joy and gladness with thanksgiving in every remembrance of Him.

His name becomes our security and defence. No one can harm us when His name is known and honored. To know Him is to become like Him. In the honor of His name and what it signifies is where life finds its total fulfillment and blessing. This is where we find peace and assurance in the disappointments in life.

Only in knowing Him can we declare a righteousness that comes through faith. Only in knowing and declaring His name can we come before God's presence with His approval.

Only in knowing Him, and in obedience to Him, can we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Only in knowing Him will we be known by Him in the hour and article of death. Only in knowing Him can we know each other in Him.

The apostle Paul declared the knowledge of knowing Christ to be the greatest, and most valuable achievement of the human mind, because this is eternal life. I John 5:20: "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life."

--Kenneth Martin

CHILDREN'S PAGE: GRANDMA'S VISIT

Elaine and Adam had not seen Grandma for over a year. Baby Teddy had never seen her because he was not even a year old. Therefore, Grandma's arrival caused much excitement among the children.

Grandma's right knee was hurting very badly, so she needed to sit most of the time. Still, she wanted to help Mama somehow. Mama brought her a pile of mending that needed to be done, and Grandma was pleased to do it.

"Grandma, are you putting jewels in your heart, too?" Elaine asked.

"Jewels in my heart? What do you mean?" questioned Grandma. When Elaine explained about the jewels, Grandma smiled. "Yes, I guess I am," she said.

Just then a spool of thread dropped from her fingers and rolled across the floor, unwinding as it went. Adam scrambled after it, quick as a flash. "A jewel for you, Adam!" Grandma remarked. This made Elaine anxious to gather a jewel and some praise from Grandma, too.

"Elaine," Mama called. "I need the table set for lunch." A frown started to cross Elaine's face, but she remembered just in time that setting the table would be helping Mama, and make another jewel in her heart. Off she ran to set the table.

"May I pick a bouquet for the table since Grandma is here?" she asked Mama.

"That would be very nice," Mama answered.

When Grandma hobbled out to the table, her eyes lit up with delight! "A jewel for you, Elaine! I always like to see the table set neatly, with each plate, knife, fork, and spoon carefully in place. And, the flowers are so very pretty! What a pleasure it will be to eat with my jewel-adorned grandchildren!"

Grandma's pleasure and praise made both children glow with happiness, and they determined to try harder to gather jewels in their hearts. --Linda Frick

THE CLOCK OF TIME

The clock of time is wound but once,
And no man hath the power
To tell just when the hands will stop--
At late or early hour.
Now is the only time you own:
So live, love, toil with a will;
Do not depend upon tomorrow, for
The clock may then be still.

--Selected

THE PILGRIM
19201 Cherokee Rd.
Tuolumne, CA 95379

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SONORA, CA
PERMIT # 10

THE PILGRIM

VOL. 45 FEBRUARY, 1998 No. 2

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." I Peter 2:11

TILL HE COME

"Till He come!" O let the words
Linger on the trembling chords;
Let the little while between
In their golden light be seen;
Let us think how heaven and home
Lie beyond that -- "Till He come."

When the weary ones we love
Enter on their rest above,
When their words of love and cheer
Fall no longer on our ear,
Hush, be every murmur dumb;
It is only -- "Till He come."

See, the feast of love is spread,
Drink the wine, and break the bread;
Sweet memorials, --till the Lord
Call us round His heavenly board;
Some from earth, from glory some,
Severed only --"Till He come."

-Edward H. Bickersteth

THE PILGRIM is a religious magazine published in the interests of the members of the Old Brethren Church. Subscription rate: $5.00 per year. Sample copies sent free on request.
Publishing editor: Leslie Cover
Address: THE PILGRIM, 19201 Cherokee Rd., Tuolumne, CA 95379

TRUE BEAUTY

What is the most beautiful of all the sights you have seen in the world? Was it a sunset? a flower? a river or snow covered mountain? As I write, our peacock with his new crop of multi-colored feathers, is making his morning inspection of his domain. Here is one of the most beautiful of God's creatures. His neck and breast are bright, unbroken blue. His wings are barred black and white with a tan or orange section and a solid black area. His back is radiant green. But most beautiful are the long feathers growing from his back, iridescent with greens and blues and a colorful eye on each feather. In the sun these colors change from green to bronze with a variety of indescribable color. He can fluff out these long feathers to clean them, which he does many times a day. But when he struts in his show to peahens and other fowl, his main plumes stand up supported by shorter, stiff tail feathers, and the symmetrical display is simply gorgeous. What beauty God has created!

It is sometimes said that the peacock is proud. But really, he is only doing what God made him to do. And in other areas he is ordinary or even deficient. For instance, his brain is very small; instinct seems to be his main intelligence, for he doesn't learn, even from repeated lessons.

Man is not so colorful. And yet there is a beauty of face and form so attractive, so admired by all, surpassing by far the colors of the peacock. This beauty and the appreciation of it is God-given. But the world with its false values has so distorted, exploited, and debased the physical beauty, that it appears as mainly a tool for the adversary.

Beautiful men and women of the past have included Rachel, Bath-sheba, Absalom, Abishag, and the late Princess Diana. But the physical beauty was not enough, and in some cases was even a snare. True inner beauty comes alone from God. Queen Esther had it and so did Ruth. Jesus had it to perfection. He may be the one described in the Song of Solomon who is "altogether lovely."

What is true beauty? All that we see with our eyes will sometime fail, lose its beauty, and be destroyed. Is there any kind of beauty that is lasting? One older sister in the church used to say, "Beauty is as beauty does!" If this is true, it places true beauty on deeds rather than looks. We all know that a person of outstanding physical beauty can spoil it all by selfish actions or cynical attitudes or unkindness. That kind of beauty is "only skin deep."

Only God can bestow the beauty that endures. He created all the beauty of form that appeals to us only for time. But He gives also lasting beauty that will never fade when He creates in us new hearts that love and forgive and serve.

In Romans 10:15 Paul quotes part of Isaiah 52:7 which says, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!" Feet take no prizes for beauty, but when they are used to bring the good news of salvation in Christ, they are most beautiful. Outstanding in this respect are those servants of God who have taken and are taking the Gospel into the areas of darkness where superstitions are overcome by truth, and souls are rescued from ignorance and given life in Christ.

Esther was probably the most beautiful girl available in Persia. But her true beauty was exposed when she courageously risked her life for her people.

Ruth was perhaps a common looking Moabite girl, but her inner beauty became famous when she refused to leave her godly mother-in-law. Her example has been noted in thousands of marriages through the ages.

Godly men and women receive the true beauty from the Spirit of God. It is not something inherent in our natures. You would think that grinding peacock feathers would produce pigment that an artist could mix and use to paint colorful pictures. But this is not so. If the feathers are ground, the colors disappear. Only in the form in which they were created, and only in the daylight are the peacock's colors beautiful. They reflect the colors in the light. Our beauty too is destructible. Only as we reflect the colors of the love of God can true beauty shine in us. We must fill the place for which we were created and live in the sunshine of God's grace in order to be beautiful for Him.

About the perfections of God, the prophet Zechariah declares (9:17), "For how great is his goodness, and how great is his beauty!" We sing " Beautiful Savior" and "Jesus, the very thought of Thee With sweetness fills my breast." To us who have felt the forgiveness and new life by His sacrifice, He is beautiful. Paul says that Christ crucified is a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Greeks. It is so in our time too. "But to them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ (is) the power of God, and the wisdom of God." (I Cor. 1:24) Peter writes similarly in I Peter 2:7: "Unto you therefore which believe he is precious..." (See the next verses.) Peter tells godly women that the true ornamentation (something to make one beautiful) is "a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."

So, young girls (and boys too), if you really want to be beautiful and to have others praise your beauty, don't go to the drug store for makeup. Instead, develop this meek, quiet spirit.

Ask God for the hidden beauty in the heart that loves and serves, and you will be truly beautiful to all. --L.C.

REMEMBERING GRANDPA

Grandpa, Joseph Miller Cover, died when I was nine years of age but he left a lasting impression on his young grandson's life. Most of you who will read this never knew the man. Some of the older ones will remember him.

He had a keen sense of the Lord's presence in his life and loved to sing and talk of His "loving kindness."

The shadows of his life were lengthening in the summer of 1944. On at least one occasion, he talked to me about nearing home and of his great desire to leave his worn out body and go to be with the Lord. It was hard for me to think that he would go and I would have to stay. When I asked him if I could go to heaven also, he was quick to reply that if I would love and serve the Lord, that I could also look forward to that happy event.

He died one night as he had lived: peaceful, patient, and kind. I was unaware the night of his home-going that the next morning his room would be empty just like a young boy's heart would be empty also.

His greatest legacy was not in material goods or possessions, but rather that of a close walk with God and of a genuine love and respect for his fellowmen. The following account was given to me by my parents: Grandpa met up with a despondent man on the cliffs at Santa Cruz overlooking the ocean. As it was his nature, Grandpa struck up a conversation about the Lord. The man, who was apparently thinking of ending it all right there, declared that he did not believe that there was a God. At that point, Grandpa clasped his hand over the man's mouth and said, "Then where will you get your next breath? Don't you know that God gives us the air we breathe?"

What a rich legacy he left behind! Most of us who knew him are now grandparents, and we may well ask ourselves, "Will we leave behind a legacy to challenge and inspire future generations? Will they also have a keen sense of God's presence in their lives? Hebrews 11:4b "and by it (faith) he being dead yet speaketh."

--David Skiles
Cuba, New Mexico

HURRY! TIME IS RUNNING OUT

The above headline to an advertisement caught my attention. The closing of an old year certainly reminds us of the truth that time is running out. Each passing year is "one less of life for me." Each passing year is one year closer the return of our Lord. What should be our response to fleeting time?

The advertisement tells us to hurry. That is the watchword of modern society. Rush here; catch the plane there; quickly close the deal before the other party changes his mind; grab the market while it is high. Act by a certain date; "it is your last chance." As the advertisement further warned, "Don't miss your chance! The time is now!" Such a hurry, hurry life is consistent with the get-ahead, go-for-it mentality. If the object is to get rich and make a name for yourself, then you will want to hurry because time is running out!

Aspirin sales, antacid remedies, and the psychiatrist couch tell the other side of the story. God did not make our minds and bodies to be driven relentlessly from pillar to post. We were not created to pursue earthly goals for which time is so limited. God does not intend for us to fret and fume about how we will provide for our physical needs.

A person who is seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness has learned the discipline of the injunction: "Be still and know that I am God." He has time to quiet his soul in

prayer. He takes time for worship with his family and the church. He is not too busy to witness for his Lord.

"Not a surge of worry,
Not a shade of care,
Not a blast of hurry
Touch the spirit there."

He follows the example of Mary who sat at the feet of Jesus and was commended for her wise use of time. By choice he turns from the encumbering care of much material serving.

When the grain is ready to cut, or the hay is in prime shape to bale, how is a farmer to respond to a threatening rain storm? May I commend to you my father's answer to his anxious son's questioning in such circumstances: "I'm going to let it rain." If God, who gave the crop, chooses to take it in its prime, why should we worry and complain? "The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

We may even be tempted to try to hurry our work for the Lord. Paul was busy in his calling to preach to the Gentiles. He allowed himself a full schedule fleeing from one city to the next, establishing churches and confirming the saints. He was important to the work of the church; his time was valuable. And then he was caught in the legal web to be detained two years in prison under Felix. This was followed by another two years awaiting trial in Rome. He might have taken the attitude that he had too much work to do to waste his precious time in prison. Instead he saw that what was happening to him had "fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel." He was where God wanted him to be so that even legal detention did not disturb his peace.

Ah, there is the secret of peace: Be where God wants you to be, and you can face the interruptions with tranquility. But what if you are not where God wants you to be? What if there is an unconfessed sin? What if there are unresolved, bitter feelings? What if there is a severed relation with the church?

What if you are not saved? Then the title of the advertisement is very pertinent: "Hurry! Time is running out!" " Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." (II Cor. 6:2) "Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts." (Heb. 3:7,8)

We have no promise of tomorrow. A tree may fall on us; our vehicle may crash into a truck; or our heart may fail. (Persons in our community died from each of these causes in 1997.) That is no cause for hurry to those who are at peace with God. But for those who are unprepared, "Hurry! Time is running out!"

--Lester E. Showalter
Greencastle, Pennsylvania

SOWING GOOD SEED

I spoke a word,
And no one heard;
I wrote a word,
And no one cared
Or seemed to heed;
But after half a score of years
It blossomed in a fragrant deed.
Preachers and teachers all are we,
Sowers of seed unconsciously.
Our hearers are beyond our ken;
Yet all we give may come again
With usury of joy or pain.
We never know
To what one little word may grow.
See to it, then, that all your seeds
Be such as bring forth noble deeds.

--Selected by Norman Cable

OUR CHOICE

If in our hearts God does not rule,
Then we'll be used as Satan's tool.
In this we can not neutral be;
One of the two we serve, you see.

The evidence we can discern:
If in our heart vile lust does burn,
If evil works do have their way,
Then Satan there is holding sway.

Not only this, do we pretend
To walk with God, when we intend
To serve ourselves instead of Him,
Within our hearts to harbor sin?

We need to search and see in truth,
What attitudes and just what fruit
Are showing forth to those around.
The spirit fruits, should there abound.

If we in truth will do our part,
The Spirit will to us impart
True wisdom and discernment too;
And guidance that will see us through.

His people we can then discern;
With love to them our hearts will burn.
Communion sweet will then be real;
God's peace within we'll always feel.

--James Beery

I THIRST

No one understands;
No heart can comprehend
The depth of my devotion,
A love that sees no end.

With all the strength I'm given
I seek to do Your will.
I search to know Your mind and heart,
My thirsting soul to fill.

Your child I am; I know this well,
But I desire something more.
To give You back the purest heart,
The love You made us for.

"No one's perfect," so I'm told.
"God knows; He understands."
I won't accept or rest in that
When failing Your commands.

Oh God, just to have heaven
Is not enough for me.
I want to be Your truest friend.
To please You thoroughly.

I care not if the others know;
I ask not reward or fame.
But before Your eyes, for all it means,
To live in Jesus' name.

Father, when You search the earth
For one who stood for You,
My deepest hope, my sole desire's
That I'm found wholly true.

-Gail J. Storkel
Edwardsburg, Michigan

"SEARCH ME, O GOD"
Psalm 139:23

Do you speak of the faults of others unnecessarily?

Can you rejoice to see another succeed when you have failed?

In every heart there is a supreme place, a sort of throne. Who sits in yours? An idol, self, or God?

Can you pretend to love Christ without exerting yourself for the spiritual welfare of those for whom He died?

Do you give hard judgment on sins to which you have never been tempted, while you are full of excuses for your own?

Do you impute the lower motive in any case of ambiguous conduct, instead of "hoping all things" as love demands?

Can you recollect SIX times in your life that you have denied yourself to the extent of real inconvenience from love to God?

Do you try to find out subjects of sympathy, instead of dwelling on and aggravating points on which you differ from those around you?

Can you be said really to believe in God when the presence of a human being is a greater restraint upon your actions than the fact of His all-seeing eye?

Have you thought how much greater is the shame you feel when a sin is discovered than when it is hidden from the knowledge of others, although God saw it all the time?

Do you get real pleasure from your prayers, reading, and meditating upon holy things? Or do you go through them to satisfy the demands of conscience, and are secretly glad when they are over? --Selected

COURAGE

Look back, but not too long. Look back in order that the backward look may inflame your heart with thankfulness.

Look back, but without regret. Your treasures of the past will be transferred through the present to the future, and you will find them there. The losses and mistakes of the past may be buried in a grave of penitential faith in the pardoning mercy of God in Christ. Close the door on the past. When you have shut the door--leave the door shut.

Face forward! Your feet were made for the path of light, What if you have had to pass through the shadows--you came through, did you not? Move on! Face forward! There will be strength for your burdens, provision for your needs, enabling for your task, and the great Comrade along your way.

Face forward! Remember, no hill is so steep in climbing as it seems in approaching; no burden is so heavy in bearing as it seems while lifting; no danger is so great in meeting as it seems while fearing; no way is so long as it seems when starting.

Face forward, and move on! Home lies that way, and the reward of life's labors. Face forward! It is Christ who bids you move on with Him.

Matthew 28:20 gives us the blessed promise: "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

--J.C.Massee, Selected from *The Sunday School Herald*

BIRTHS

BEERY-- A son, Michael Aaron, born January 6 to Daniel and Miriam Beery of Goshen, Indiana.

JOHNSON--A son, Addison Royal, born January 3, 1997, and came to the family of Ken and Karen Johnson on January 27, 1998.

THE PLAN OF SALVATION

When man fell into the power of sin, God had a plan to rescue him from this bondage. At the onset of Satan's scheme God began to reveal what He would accomplish some day -- that the seed of the woman would overcome and destroy Satan and all his servants.

In time this plan was revealed to the prophets, although they were unable to clearly understand all its significance. It was revealed that this was God's plan for them and that this prophetic message was to bless and assure those that would see the reality of this promise.

Fulfilled prophecy carries a proof and validity that is irrefutable. When humanity recognized Jesus as the promised Messiah that the prophets revealed, it created a sensation and motivation for them to go everywhere proclaiming this wonderful news.

It was soon evident that all creation was subject to Him, including Satan. The laws of nature, life, and death were in His control. In His presence demons became powerless, storms had to cease, the eyes of the blind were opened, the dead were raised to life, and much more.

All this power and authority displayed was not in itself the purpose of His coming. This was only to prove to man His authority and power to forgive sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Jesus has now completed the plan of salvation. The mystery that was concealed from the prophets is now known. But salvation is not complete in man until we respond to His request that He may dwell within us.

This is now the mystery that has been hid from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints "which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." (Col. 1:27)

--Kenneth Martin

FOR YOUTH

Many say they are Christians--followers of Yours.

You gave Your life for all.

Some give their scorn.

Can those who ***truly love*** You care so little for those You loved enough to die for?

"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." (I John 4:8)

You gave a Bible full of commandments and guidelines.

Some give a shrug and say, "Just believe."

Can those who are Your true servants and ***truly believe*** in You care so little about Your Word?

"He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. (I John 2:4)

"Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them." (Matt. 7:20)

--Martha Wagner

THE USE OF TIME

If you saw a man standing by the shore flinging gold coins and diamonds into the sea, you would say he was insane. Yet many people continually do something very like this, Not gold and precious stones do they thus throw away, but minutes, hours, days, weeks, and years of time--possessions which are of greater worth than any coins and gems of earth. --Anonymous

---

ADDRESS CHANGES

Kenneth Martin 68340 C.R 11

Andrew Martin 68342 C.R. 11
Nappanee, IN 46550
(219) 831-4165

CHILDREN'S PAGE

THE BLACK SPOT

Mama was sad. She knew Elaine had helped herself to some Kool Aid drink mix again, although she'd been told not to. Elaine, however, was denying it. How did Mama know? Let's find out.

"Come with me." Mama said, leading her to the pantry. There on a shelf, just the right height for Elaine to reach, was the Kool Aid drink mix can. Yes, the lid was on, but ..."What are all the ants around the can for?" Elaine asked, her eyes opening wide.

Mama explained that the ants had found some of the sweet powder on the shelf and on the side of the can. Opening the can, she showed Elaine the ants inside, too. The lid hadn't been on quite tight. "Now, Elaine, are you ready to admit to taking some?"

Hanging her head, Elaine nodded.

You'll have to wait until Daddy comes home to take care of you, Elaine. You know God wants us to be truthful, and Daddy and Mama must teach their children to always tell the truth.

After supper, Daddy took Elaine into the living room. He talked to her about the seriousness of lying. "This makes an ugly black spot on your heart, Elaine."

At this, Elaine had a thought, "I'll try extra hard to get another jewel on my heart tonight, Daddy. That'll cover up the ugly black spot!"

"No, I'm afraid it doesn't work like that," Daddy told her. How would that pink sweater look with a black spot underneath one of the shiny things? Would it be pretty?"

Elaine slowly shook her head, picturing an ugly black grease spot on that soft pink sweater.

"That black spot on your heart must be completely removed before you put a jewel there, or it will always be ugly. God has made a way for parents to clean black spots from children's hearts, so I will have to clean your heart now. It will hurt while I am doing it, but afterwards, you'll feel all clean and happy again."

Children, do you know the way parents can clean black spots from your hearts? Have someone read Proverbs 23:13-14 to help you find out.

--Linda Frick

THE PILGRIM
19201 Cherokee Rd.
Tuolumne, CA 95379

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SONORA, CA
PERMIT # 10

THE PILGRIM

VOL. 45 MARCH, 1998 No. 3

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." I Peter 2:11

LOOKING UNTO GOD

I look to Thee in every need
And never look in vain;
I feel Thy strong and tender love,
And all is well again:
The thought of Thee is mightier far
Than sin and pain and sorrow are.

Discouraged in the work of life,
Disheartened by its load,
Shamed by its failures or its fears,
I sink beside the road;
But let me only think of Thee,
And then new heart springs up in me.

Thy calmness bends serene above
My restlessness to still;
Around me flows Thy quickening life,
To nerve my faltering will;
Thy presence fills my solitude;
Thy providence turns all to good.

Embosomed deep in Thy dear love,
Held in Thy law, I stand;
Thy hand in all things I behold,
And all things in Thy hand;
Thou leadest me by unsought ways,
And turn'st my mourning into praise.

--Samuel Longfellow
From *The Disciplines of Life*

THE PILGRIM is a religious magazine published in the interests of the members of the Old Brethren Church. Subscription rate: $5.00 per year. Sample copies sent free on request.
Publishing editor: Leslie Cover
Address: THE PILGRIM, 19201 Cherokee Rd., Tuolumne, CA 95379

VALLEYS

I'm thinking of valleys--not valleys between mountains, but valleys or low places in life that we pass through. Sometimes we climb to mountain tops when everything pleases, and we are encouraged and close to our Maker and Redeemer. Other times we walk through troubles that bring us down to discouragement and depression. The problem is not to completely eliminate these experiences, because we cannot avoid them all, and besides that, they can be beneficial. The challenge is to come through wiser and better than we were before.

What are some of these valleys? One might be sickness. Disappointment, too, often brings us low. Discouragement is another and might be caused by unfair criticism, failures of any kind, or even a realization of our weaknesses or sins. Sorrow in the loss of a loved one also is a valley nearly everyone must cross.

Going into a valley, we must believe that God is in control and that He does not delight to see us suffer. We must somehow believe that He has a purpose, and it is for our good if we are His children. That verse Paul wrote can be a motto for the one in a valley: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

Since we know that God has a purpose in bringing us low, what might that purpose be? Perhaps the highest purpose is to glorify Him. God is the God of the valleys. Even wicked King Ahab gained victory when the Syrians claimed, "The Lord is God of the hills, but he is not the God of the valleys." The prophet made it plain that the purpose of victory in the valleys was not Ahab's might or goodness but that "ye shall know that I am the Lord." (I Kings 20) The setting was different, but the

truth is the same: God is the God of our valleys. We can gain victory to glorify Him.

There are blessings to us in the valleys. We can draw nearer to God as we are vividly reminded of our own weakness. We once visited a lady who had been almost completely paralyzed by polio. She could not move a finger. She could not even breathe without help but lay day and night on a rocking bed that tipped her forward and backward to allow the weight of her internal organs to push air in and out of her lungs. She was cheerful through it all but completely dependent on those who cared for her. When we know how weak we are, we appreciate more the care God gives us down to every breath we take.

As we pass through trials, we become more able to help others in the same trials. There is a saying attributed to the Indians: "We should not judge another until we have walked a day in his moccasins." To have similar experiences may not always qualify us to judge, but it should make us more sympathetic and more able to give wise counsel.

Some of our valleys may even be used as lessons to others. For instance, a long illness of a grandparent may be a test of how we are willing to minister to that person. In my grandfather's final years, he was lovingly cared for by his children. He went from one home to another, and even we children received blessing when he was in our home. (Brother David Skiles wrote of this grandfather in our last issue.) We learned of his devotion. I was wonderfully impressed one morning when I carried his breakfast tray into his bedroom and found him praying. He did not stop just because I had his food. He had other "bread" to eat!

Punishment can also be a reason that we cross low places in life. God is just, and He does not put on us more than we can bear. Jacob testified, "I am not worthy of the least of thy mercies." (Gen. 32:10) We know that we could not live through a just punishment for our sins. Jesus died to save us

from this death. But sin has consequences in this life that God does not always remove. Sometimes our sins can be detrimental to others: discouraging to those looking on and even bringing reproach on God's people. King David's son was not spared even though his sin was forgiven. Nathan told him, "Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die."

Coming through a valley we draw nearer to God; we sense His power and working, and we can honestly testify of His great mercy. Fanny Crosby wrote:

All the way my Savior leads me:
What have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt His tender mercy,
Who through life has been my guide?
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,
Here by faith in Him to dwell!
For I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well.

There is another side or another reaction we can have to our troubles. We can become bitter; we can even blame God. We can complain, and when we do, we are actually saying that God doesn't know what He is doing. Instead of complaining we should actually praise Him and give thanks. Why? We know He has a purpose and a blessing in it for us even though we may not see it at the time. He stands higher; He sees farther than we see. Paul wrote: "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

David mourned for nearly a year because of his sin. It is right to mourn and be sorry for our sins. But mourning is not despair; it is not blaming God. Hebrews 12:5b,6: "My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him; For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth."

One final point is that we need to understand the valleys. God has not promised the reward here. In studying Job's trials we see that Satan has limits set by God. He cannot pass these limits. If we understand His purposes and His perfect control, we can have peace and patience. In Psalm 73, Asaph complains about the prosperity of the wicked. He was "envious at the foolish." He said his "steps had well nigh slipped." He felt that he had "cleansed his heart in vain." It was painful for him "Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end." He rejoiced at the understanding and called himself foolish and ignorant. His testimony can bless us today: "Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory." He concludes, "But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all thy works."

God promises to be with us even "through the valley of the shadow of death." Jesus says "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." The President has a bodyguard to protect him as much as possible. We have the best protection there is: the presence and power of God. In the words of Isaac Watts, "What real harm can reach my soul Beneath my Father's eye?" --L.C.

REPENTANCE, THE FORERUNNER OF SALVATION

"Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." These words were spoken by Jesus after some told Him of the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. *Except ye repent:* what does it mean? Repent means, "to feel pain or sorrow on account of something done or left undone; change from past evil." To just be sorry for our sins, without changing our course of action, is the sorrow of the world which worketh death. True repentance brings about a change of life. "Godly sorrow worketh *repentance to salvation* not to be

repented of." Praise God for those who ". . . sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter." (II Cor. 7:10,11) Repentance is spoken of in Heb. 6:1 as being the foundation of the salvation process. Psm. 11:3: "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" The unchanging, everlasting, almighty God is holy; no sin can dwell in His presence. Rev. 21:8: "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolators, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." All have sinned and come short, far short, of God's glory. If only we could more fully realize this. Job said, "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes." (42:5,6) This shows how even the best men see themselves after they have seen the Lord in all His glory. Only those who truly repent can be saved. But I thought salvation was free!? Salvation is freely given to those who repent of all their sins. "The goodness of God leads us to repentance." Acts 3:19: "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out. . ." How can we truly repent? Jesus must give it to you. Acts 5:31: "(Jesus) hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins." In Acts 11:18 it speaks of the Gentiles being "granted repentance unto life." II Pet. 3:9 says the Lord is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." *But I've been baptized and joined a church. What do you mean repent?* Jesus is the door of the church. Only those who come to Him and are broken and repent of all their sins and look to Him and trust Him for salvation and endure unto the end will be

saved. Salvation cannot be gotten passively; it comes by sorrowing over our sins and turning from them to God. I Cor. 15:2: "By which also (the gospel) ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. It's interesting to notice Jesus' words to the seven churches in Rev. 2 and 3. These words were spoken not long after the church was started. To four of the seven He tells them to repent. What about in our day? We live in a sad time. Mal. 3:14,15: "Ye have said, It is vain to serve God; and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the Lord of hosts? And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered." There's another gospel today that in essence says, *Jesus came to save us in our sins, and give us a free ticket to heaven regardless of how we live.* This comes from a misunderstanding of what salvation really is. Matt. 1:21 says, Jesus shall save His people *from* their sins. O what a blessed gospel! O what a great God we serve! The Holy Ghost, who is the believers' guarantee of their inheritance in the beloved, is only given to those who obey God. II Chron. 7:14: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." Repentance is the blessing of God's grace freely given to those who seek with all their hearts.

--Kevin Garber
Twain Harte, California

ADDRESS CHANGE: Ronald and Faythe Cable
P.O. Box 507
307 South Clinton St.
West Lebanon, IN 47991
(765) 893-4297

DECEPTION OR TRUTH

Just do your thing, we hear today;
Whate'er you'd like to do.
It's right for you to have your way,
Your pleasure to fulfill.

They'd have us think no wrongs exist--
That feelings count for all.
There is no sin we must resist,
That could cause us to fall.

To live this way, they say, you're free,
And happiness you'll reach.
But if we look around, we see
The lie in what they teach.

If we observe the lives of those
Who live the way they say,
We'll soon discern, they are not close
To reaching peace this way.

The more they live their selfish way,
The more their misery grows;
The reason why, God's Word does say,
Mankind his bondage chose.

As long as we think we deserve
Our way, we can't be free.
There are great truths we must observe,
If we would happy be.

If these we live, we will be blest,
Our joy will never cease.
Outside these truths we'll find no rest;
In Christ alone is peace.

--James Beery

AS UNTO ME

Others may not notice your efforts or give you recognition for something you've done. The credit may go to someone else.---- Do it anyway, as unto Me, for I am pleased by your service and will honor your obedience.

There may be times when a job you have done will be rejected. Something you have prepared may be delayed or canceled.---- Do it anyway, as unto Me, for I see all things and will bless the work of your hands.

You may do your best but have your labors fail. You may sacrifice time and money to help someone and receive no words of appreciation,---- Do it anyway, as unto Me, for I am your reward and will repay you.

There may be times when you go out of your way to include others and later have them ignore you. You may be loyal on your job and still have someone promoted ahead of you,---- Do it anyway, as unto Me, for I know your heart and will comfort you.

You may speak the truth but be considered wrong by others. You may do something with good intentions and be completely misunderstood,---- Do it anyway, as unto Me, for I understand and will not disappoint you.

There may be times when keeping your word means giving up something you would like to do. There may be times when a commitment will mean sacrificing a personal pleasure,---- Do it anyway, as unto Me, for I am your friend and will bless you with My presence. --Roy Lessin

Selected by Philip and Annette Royer

GOD'S PEACE (Proverbs 19:23)

The best satisfied person in the world is not the millionaire, not the brightest scholar, not the one highest in authority, not the big business king; no, not these at all, but the humble, really born-again child of God. Money is no match for the "peace of God, which passeth all understanding." Education cannot cope with "the fear of the Lord (which) is the beginning of wisdom." Power and authority in this world fade into insignificance when compared with the peace of God. The humble saint has a peace the world cannot give, nor can it take away. Our text says, "He that hath it (the fear of the Lord) shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil." Our God knows His saints, and He knows how to take care of them. Prov. 3:24 says, "When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet." Psalm 127:2: "He giveth his beloved sleep." God's children don't need "sleeping pills" to make them sleep. God takes care of that. Praise His precious name! --Selected

---

TO THE YOUNG

Happy the youth who loves the truth
And lives for Jesus every day;
Who loves the Lord and trusts His Word
While walking on the narrow way.

Whose heart is strong, who hates the wrong,
And daily bears his cross of care;
Who loves the right, walks in the light,
And daily looks to God in prayer.

Who looks above, where all is love,
Whose life is faithful all the way,
There at the gate the Angels wait,
To bear him to eternal day. --J. I. Cover

COMMUNION MEETING NOTICE

We, the members of the Eastern District of the Old Brethren have appointed April 4 and 5, the Lord willing, for our spring Lovefeast at our meeting house near Bradford, Ohio. We invite all to come and worship with us at this meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The Annual Meeting of the Old Brethren Church will be held this year, the Lord willing, on May 29, 30, and 31, at the meeting house near Wakarusa, Indiana. Friday will be council day; Saturday and Sunday (Pentecost) will be for public preaching; and Saturday evening will be for the Communion service. A hearty invitation is extended to all of our brethren, sisters, and friends to attend.

--Melvin Coning

COMMUNION MEETING NOTICE

We, the members of the Old Brethren Church in California, have agreed to hold our Spring Lovefeast, the Lord willing, at Salida on April 20 and 21. We sincerely welcome all to come and be with us at this time of communion and revival.

--Joseph L. Cover

BIRTHS

ROYER -- A son, Elias James, born February 21, to Joe and Elizabeth Royer of Mishawaka, Indiana.

ROYER -- A son, Laban Thomas, born March 12, to Thomas and Rebecca Royer of Goshen, Indiana.

EATING HIS FLESH AND DRINKING HIS BLOOD

As Jesus was revealing Himself to the world in miraculous ways with signs and with power that was never seen or heard of before, He was received with such enthusiasm by the people that everywhere He went He had to manage the multitudes. If Jesus had had political aspirations, His opponents would not have had a chance.

When Jesus conveyed His mission and purpose for coming to earth, it was very difficult for man to receive and understand it. The constant questioning by the people was tiring to Him.

In the height of His popularity, He made a statement that was His downfall according to man's standards. He knew this would happen before He made it, but it had to be made because in it lies the total concept of salvation: it is not until we eat His flesh and drink His blood can we have eternal life. (John 6:53) Many of His disciples left Him at this point. Even those closest to Him declared they would not forsake Him, but they were not able to stand when the test came.

The time finally came for Christ to give His final message to the human heart. In loneliness and rejection, He submitted His physical being into the hands of Satan and suffered the consequences.

This is now the seal of our salvation. His obedience to suffering and death was the most noble act that could have been performed before a lost and dying world. This is now acknowledging and accepting the statement God made before the fall--that in disobedience man will surely die. Only the heart and mind that has conceived what love and sacrifice this involved can be blessed, knowing that Jesus could have refused to allow it; but because of His love for a lost and dying world, He submitted to it willingly. He knew there was no other way man could be saved.

In the beginning God told man if they disobeyed they would surely die. Satan told them otherwise. The evidence is that Satan deceived many. Now Satan in his rage blames God for the problem. Man is held in this bondage outside of Christ.

For man to be delivered from bondage of sin and death we must eat His flesh and drink His blood, which means we walk as He walked in this world. We accept suffering and death as justice, which brings peace and blessing that cannot be had outside of knowing Christ. To eat His flesh and drink His blood is not merely chewing and swallowing, but experiencing rejection and alienation from this world and its values, and being able to love as He loved, to suffer as He suffered, to turn the other cheek, to go the second mile, to pray for those that despitefully use us and persecute us, and, as much as lies within us, to live at peace with all men.

To perform and walk as He walked in itself is not salvation. The purpose of this walk is to bring honor and glory to the salvation which He brought. The apostle Paul stated that he could do all things through Christ who strengthened him. There would be no salvation had Jesus not walked on this earth. Therefore to walk as He walked is declaring and exalting Christ and the salvation He brought in deed and truth.

To walk as He walked, if not done in His honor, will profit us nothing. (I Cor. 13)

--Kenneth Martin

Whereunto we have attained, let us hold fast. But this can only be by pressing on. Otherwise, we must go back. You have need of courage and steady resolution; for you have a thousand enemies: the flattering, frowning world; the rulers of the darkness of this world; and the grand enemy within. What need have you to put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day! --John Wesley

FOR YOUTH

THAT CROSS

The very cross where Jesus died:
"It should have been me," said I,
But Christ took my place
That I could have God's grace.
Aching, suffering had Christ
To save me from eternal death,
No more spiritual pain to feel
When in the Savior's arms I rest,
After He bought me and freed me
Long ago on that tree,
To die and one day be
My Savior and my Lord
Who bore everything for me,
So I would always be
Instead of hanging on a tree,
A faithful, diligent servant
For the Lamb who shed His blood
To cleanse and wash me like a flood.
It's the worst death He could pay,
So that I may be saved some day
To always and happily obey
My Savior and my Lamb,
My Lord and my Redeemer.

--Jennifer Brandt
Union City, Ohio

As we grow older and wiser, we talk less and say more.

CHILDREN'S PAGE

FEED MY LAMBS

Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Do you love Me?"

Simon answered, "Yes, Lord, I love You."

Jesus said, "Feed My lambs."

Later Jesus asked the same question. Simon Peter answered, "Lord, You know all things. You know I love You."

Jesus answered, "Feed My sheep."

Jesus told Simon Peter to feed both little children and big people. When we think of feeding someone, we think of food. We need to feed babies and old people. Jesus was talking about a different kind of feeding.

Jesus tells us that what we have here on earth is only given to us to use for a while. If my brother wants to borrow something I have, we should gladly let him have it. When everyone shares with each other, we have no needs. We are happy and satisfied. In a real way we are feeding each other.

Here is a little make-believe story that will help us understand how we can make others content:

A man was talking to the Lord one day about Heaven and Hell. The Lord said, "Come, I will show you Hell." They walked into a room, and in the center was a big pot of stew. Everyone there was hungry, desperate, and starving. Each person had a spoon. The handle was longer than their arms. Therefore they couldn't get the spoon in their mouths. The suffering was terrible.

The next room was Heaven. Everything was the same. A pot of stew was in the center of the room. Each person had a long-handled spoon. Instead of suffering and starving, everyone was satisfied and happy.

The man said, "I don't understand. This room is the same, only everyone is happy."

The Lord said, "Here they have learned to feed each other."

If we want to experience Heaven here on earth, we must "feed" each other. We must share and help each other. If you try to make others happy, then you will be happy yourself.

--Everett Oyler

The humble in spirit enjoy continual peace, but in the heart of the proud is envy, and frequent indignation. --Selected

---

We are sorry that this issue is so late. Our copier failed and we needed to replace it before printing this month. --L.C.

THE PILGRIM
19201 Cherokee Rd.
Tuolumne, CA 95379

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SONORA, CA
PERMIT # 10

THE PILGRIM

VOL. 45 APRIL, 1998 No. 4

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." I Peter 2:11

ALONE

It was alone the Savior prayed
In dark Gethsemane;
Alone He drained the bitter cup
And suffered there for me.

It was alone the Savior stood
In Pilate's judgment hall;
Alone the crown of thorns He wore,
Forsaken thus by all.

Alone upon the cross He hung
That others He might save;
Forsaken then by God and man,
Alone His life He gave.

Can you reject such matchless love?
Can you His claim disown?
Come, give your all in gratitude,
Nor leave Him thus alone.

Alone, alone, He bore it all alone;
He gave Himself to save His own,
He suffered, bled, and died alone, alone.

--Ben H. Price

THE PILGRIM is a religious magazine published in the interests of the members of the Old Brethren Church. Subscription rate: $5.00 per year. Sample copies sent free on request.
Publishing editor: Leslie Cover
Address: THE PILGRIM, 19201 Cherokee Rd., Tuolumne, CA 95379

RESURRECTION NOW--FOR US

Spring is resurrection time. Tiny brown, "dead" seeds are sprouting to life and color. Flowers are appearing from dormant roots and bulbs. Trees blossom forth with promise of sweet fruit. But this "resurrection" is still only natural and fragile. Flowers are easily crushed by a careless foot. Tree stems with buds can be broken off and the new life lost. But the resurrection that these picture to us is powerful beyond our wildest fancy. After His rising, Jesus said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."

When Jesus rose, no power could prevent Him--not the Roman seal, nor the heavy stone, nor the armed guards. He said, ". . . I have power to lay it down (His life), and I have power to take it again . . ." (John 10:18) Even unbelief (like Thomas's) could not limit His power here as it did in His hometown.

Does this resurrection power also exist in the new life of believers? Standing before the tomb of Lazarus, Jesus said to Martha, "Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?" Surely this same power is available and can only be limited by our unwillingness.

For the extent of your lifetime, you have inhabited your body (an obvious fact). Has there ever been any basic change? Your body has grown, and you have learned many facts of life. Your experiences could fill volumes. But have you ever changed? Not really, if you have not been born again. But if you are in Christ, the words of Paul in II Cor. 5:17 apply to you: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

I immediately begin to list the things that do ***not*** seem to be new in my life--my body, for instance. I have said publicly that we have the same body. But do we? Paul says ***all*** things are become new. Perhaps we need to speculate about what we would be like if we had not been converted. When God pronounces that we are new creatures in Christ, that's the way it is!

Jesus said, "For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes." (Luke 6:43,44) We are not part good tree and part corrupt. If we are not new creatures, there can be no good fruit. "Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them." II Cor. 13:5 says, "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?"

Paul makes it plain in Romans 6 that before this resurrected life in Christ there must be death to sin. The old man must be crucified. Jesus said, "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit."

"Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:11) Conversion or the new birth amounts to a resurrection here and now.

What makes us sometimes doubt the renewing of our bodies is the fact that we are still subject to temptation. So Paul continues in Romans 6:12: "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lust thereof." Though we can still be tempted, we now have the help of our Heavenly Father and the promise that the temptation will not be too great to bear.

Jesus' resurrected body had special powers. He disappeared and reappeared, passed through closed doors, and looked different enough that His friends did not always recognize Him. So it is with a new creature in Christ. Our bodies are now devoted to a different cause. The words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts are different. There are places our new feet will not take us, and there is new work for our hands. Our very appearance will change; we will be "as obedient children, not fashioning (ourselves) according to the former lusts in (our) ignorance." (I Peter 1:14)

The change in us may not be so visibly dramatic as the changing of a dry seed to a moist, green, growing stalk of wheat. But the change in character is even greater. Jesus told Nicodemus, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." A new dimension is added. It is not like joining another club, or like making New Year's resolutions. This is new life from above. Because he was a new creature in Christ, Dirk Willems could turn and save his pursuer's life in the icy river, and as a result, be arrested and later be put to death for his faith by a slow fire. Thirteen-year-old Pelagius could refuse to give up his faith to become a special courtier to the Moorish king of Spain. He could endure being tortured with iron tongs and have his arms torn off and finally be cut in pieces. In Equador, five young Christian missionaries could risk and lose their lives trying to reach the Auca Indians with the Gospel. Our own Brethren ancestors could spend long lives in service to Christ and pass on the Gospel to us because they had the new, resurrected life of Jesus. And because you are a new creature, you can resist temptation and find repentance and forgiveness if you fail.

I wonder how the Moorish king, having only a physical birth, would have endured the torture he gave Pelagius. How would Herod have taken being made a human torch to light his garden parties as he did to Christians, blaming them for his own

burning of Rome? Unconverted men might, by sheer will power and stubbornness, grit their teeth and endure, but they wouldn't come through singing and encouraging one another to be true. They would not have reasoned, "A man is no fool to give what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."--Elliot Those responses are reserved for the ones who have been changed into the image of Christ.

Some glad day, those in Christ, living and dead, will experience another dramatic change. At Jesus' coming, the dead in Christ will rise from the graves with glorified bodies, and those living will also be changed to glory. We will be like Jesus "for we shall see him as he is."

CHANGED

Changed and justified,
Redeemed and sanctified,
Men in Jesus Christ will never be the same.
Filled with new leaven,
On the pathway to Heaven,
We overcome and win by the power of Jesus' name.

Yield to the Savior,
Love Him forever,
Give your best to the tasks that lie ahead.
Live in the Spirit,
God's love inherit,
Give out the Word to men in Jesus' stead.

Someday in glory,
We'll tell the story:
Born anew into the family of God.
Changed by His grace
To look on His face,
Resurrected to new life by Jesus' blood. --L.C.

LIFE IN CHRIST

It seems to me, as I think about it, that often we as believers in Christ expect that those around us share and understand our Christian beliefs and language. For instance, who has not heard a statement like "people ought to get back to the Bible"? This kind of statement is broad at best and lacking to say the least. Why should that make sense to a non-believer? How could they even do such as that? Maybe we have forgotten, at least in a small part, that the power is in a living, resurrected Saviour. This was the power of our fathers, those whose memory the Church has and will hold dear!

It seems that much of western Christendom has made so much of Christ's death that they border on serving a dead Christ. It is then that Christ becomes an idol. This is particularly evident as we study the struggles between our "Anabaptist" Brethren and larger Christendom. They had power for holy living. Others, who made so much of Christ's death and blood procuring their forgiveness of sin, seemingly forgot that He rose to bring us to new life. But this is why the apostles could contrast so effectively the old Law and the new Covenant.

So Christ's death is only part of this gospel. And yes, a very precious part. A part that is remembered over the world by believers everywhere in the bread and wine of the Eucharist. But not only does His death cleanse us from our sins, His life empowers us to be free from sinning. Only then can the Sermon on the mount and its great teachings, such as nonresistance, be followed. Only then do the apostolic writings make sense. Only the whole gospel, the one that provides men with power to live godly, can lead to eternal life. (Heb. 12:14) It is a narrow way (Matt. 7:14) that few want, but it is the way of freedom and forgiveness. The way of reality.

It is one of the enemy's tools, we believe, to somehow get people to imagine that they can "believe" in Christ and just "trust" His blood for cleansing--and all is well. No! A thousand times no! We have heard the call to follow Christ (follow = believe), have been empowered by His Spirit sent from the Father, and now we act! We can live godly, transformed lives! (John 14:15) This is experiencing forgiveness through His blood.

Life around us today confronts us with dreadful social ills. It is both appalling and heart rending. War between nations and races, divorce and remarriage, immorality, broken homes, and here in the "mighty" USA --violence on every side seemingly. What is the answer? Is there one? Yes!

When individuals have radically broken from their old life in true repentance and faith, have died to self and buried their sins in baptism, been cleansed by Christ's blood and now vow to follow Him all their lives, they are new creatures. They are risen to new life. They are now one with Christ's Body-- the holy church of God. They can now receive the Spirit. They now belong to a holy nation, a peculiar people, a new kingdom, a garden of flowers blooming unto God. These people reserved unto God (the Church) have been empowered to move forward with the message of peace to all nations and races, brotherly love and kindness, and the effecting of true forgiveness of sins through communal prayer and discipline. (Matt. 18; James 5:16; I John 1:7)

This moves us out of our own selfish world into all the world to share this unique gospel. This is one reason the early church, and other times through the centuries (such as early Anabaptists and Brethren) spread with great power! They had it because they served a living Christ. An Almighty God whose workings in the lives of mankind for generations and told for centuries, was reality to them.

We often wonder why some who grow up among us, as well as those who come to us otherwise, sometimes fall away. No doubt this has been the story for centuries. The cost of discipleship is high and all-encompassing. But many times, we fear, some fail to realize what new life in Christ means. Sure we may wear "plain" clothes, or be "plain" in other ways, but when we can not forgive, when it separates us from the local body, or other things foreign to God's Word --either we have not realized truth or have forsaken it. Then we cannot see clearly. Alas! Many are they of whom the apostle writes "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us." (I John 2:19) Many are the false prophets of our day who preach a different gospel, one different from what the church has received for nearly 2,000 years.

This is the time of year that Communion meetings are common among us, so in connection with this we would like to repeat an age-old parable. Just as each grain of wheat must be ground finely to make one loaf, and each grape give up its life to make one cup, even so must we be crushed in the mill of repentance and humility. We must give up our self-will to blend in with the whole. Only as each kernel and grape give up their own identity, does it produce any life-sustaining bread and wine. So it is with us. "For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread." (I Cor. 10:17) Herein is a paradox: only through death, death to sin and self, can new life in Christ come.

Beloved, we serve a living Christ! No, not the resurrection--and certainly not death--but a *living* Christ who died and rose to bring us a life-changing gospel that leads to eternal life in God. He is our perfect example. May we follow in His footsteps with new life and power. May God's peace and joy be

with each one in this joyous resurrection season.

--Michael Harris

STABAT MATER

(" The mother was standing" commemorating the sorrows of Mary at the cross.)

At the cross her station keeping,
Stood the mournful mother weeping;
Where He hung, the dying Lord,
For her soul of joy bereaved,
Bowed with anguish, deeply grieved,
Felt the sharp and piercing sword.

O how sad and sore distressed
Now was she, that mother blessed
Of the sole begotten One.
Deep the woe of her affliction,
When she saw the crucifixion
Of her ever-glorious Son.

Who on Christ's dear mother gazing,
Pierced by anguish so amazing,
Born of woman, would not weep?
Who, on Christ's dear mother thinking,
Such a cup of sorrow drinking,
Would not share her sorrows deep?

For His people's sins chastised,
She beheld her Son despised,
Scourged, and crowned with thorns entwined;
Saw Him then from judgment taken,
And in death by all forsaken,
Till His spirit He resigned.

Jesus, may her deep devotion
Stir in me the same emotion,
Fount of love, Redeemer kind;
That my heart fresh ardor gaining,
And a purer love attaining,
May with Thee acceptance find. Amen.

--from the Latin, 13th century
Sel. by Michael Harris

A CHILD AND THE BIBLE

In the years before he is twelve, a child has a unique capacity to memorize. Things committed to memory are deeply absorbed and retained. Often, years later, Bible verses learned as a child, can be recited unerringly.

This is why it is so essential for our children to commit to memory now, as many verses as possible. They needn't understand it all. Understanding belongs to another age. Later they will need the spiritual ammunition immediately, right at hand, where it can be grasped and used as needed.

Do we realize how we are crippling our children's tomorrows by omitting such memory work today? The early years are like the foundation on a house. If they are built solidly now, they can withstand anything later. Parents might well offer this prayer.

"Lord help me to guard these early years of my children, to treat them with the respect that lies in their potential. May I value each stage of my child's development --treasure every year for Thee--give each one a real significance, so that nothing is wasted. In these early carbon copy years, give me wisdom and faithfulness, I pray, in Jesus Name. Amen." --Selected

---

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The Annual Meeting of the Old Brethren Church will be held this year, the Lord willing, on May 29, 30, and 31, at the meeting house near Wakarusa, Indiana. Friday will be council day; Saturday and Sunday (Pentecost) will be for public preaching; and Saturday evening will be for the Communion service. A hearty invitation is extended to all of our brethren, sisters, and friends to attend. --Melvin Coning

THE QUESTION

Can you see Him hanging there;
Upon the cruel tree?
Hanging there, our sins to bear,
That we might be made free.

Can you hear Him gasp in pain?
Each move an agony,
Each breath, each groan, until slain;
Was borne for those like me.

Can you see the blood flow down
From thorns upon His brow?
That cruel, painful, thorny crown;
'Til death His head would bow.

Can you hear Him, cry, "I thirst"?
That pain racked cry of need,
To those who watched, laughed, and cursed;
And saw Him hurt and bleed.

Can you see the bruises there,
That sinners gave to Him?
Can you see the lashes tear
The flesh, the nerve, the skin?

Can you hear Him cry "My God,
Why have you gone from Me?"
What anguish when Heavenly God
Withdrew His power from Thee.

Can you see His body hang;
From nails in hands and feet?

As life left and earthquake rang;
The plan was now complete.

Can you feel the heavenly love
That brought the Saviour down
From His heavenly courts above,
To bear that cross and crown?

Can you feel the endless debt,
That we now owe to Him?
Who bore pain without regret,
For love of sinful men.

Will you now give daily praise
By living here for Him
Who will come the dead to raise
And purge away all sin?

Away from Him, clouds will flee;
All earthly things be done.
Will you then be glad to see
This powerful Saviour come?

--James Beery

BAPTISMS

Simon Stalter, Bethany Royer, and Joy Royer were baptized in the Indiana congregation, and Jessica Cover in the California congregation on March 15, 1998. May they be faithful in the Church of Jesus Christ.

ADDRESS CORRECTION: Ron Cable P.O. Box 557

A LIVING SACRIFICE

Jesus, in coming into the world to be a companion to the human race in their likeness, communicated a message to the heart of man that holds the preeminence of all God is and can be. There is no more that He could possibly do that would make man more accountable to life and where it is going.

Jesus not only became a human being, but also accepted the consequences of the same, except His flesh didn't experience decay after death and rightly so: He didn't need a new body after His resurrection because it was sinless. Also it fulfilled prophecy. To acknowledge that Jesus came in the flesh is a requirement of salvation. I John 4:2: "Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God."

A mother came to Jesus and asked a favor for her two sons. Jesus answered by saying they didn't know what they were asking for. Then He asked if they were able to drink of the cup He was going to drink and receive the baptism He was going to receive? They declared they were able. Jesus said unto them that they would indeed drink of the cup and receive His baptism, (to enter His kingdom) but what position they would have in it was not His to give.

We believe Jesus was giving a vital lesson for all humanity --the cost of citizenship in heaven. "Whosoever doth not bear my cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." The cross being a symbol of death, we are called to display this while we are physically alive. The apostle Paul calls this a living sacrifice. He also taught us how this can be accomplished. He says, "Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; And in nothing

terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God. For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake." Phil. 1:27-29

--Kenneth Martin
Nappanee, Indiana

FOR YOUTH: THAT CROSS

The very cross where Jesus died.
"It should have been me!" I cried.
But Christ in pity took my place
That I might have His saving grace.
Aching, suffering, pain had Christ
To save me from eternal death.
No more spiritual pain to feel
When in the Savior's arms I rest
After He bought my sins for me,
Long ago on Calvary's tree.
He died for me to one day be
My Savior and my Lord.
He bore everything for me
So that I might always be--
Instead of hanging on a tree--
A faithful, diligent servant free
For Christ who shed His precious blood
To cleanse and wash me like a flood.
It was the worst death He could pay
That I might be redeemed today,
To always and happily obey
My Savior and my sacrificial Lamb,
My Lord and my Redeemer.

--Jennifer Brandt
Union City, Ohio

CHILDREN'S PAGE
RULES FOR A CHILD AT SCHOOL

During prayers, and at the mention of God's Word, remember that God speaks with you, and be reverent and attentive.

Always be obedient to your teacher, and do not cause him to remind you of the same thing many times.

If you are punished for your naughtiness, do not express impatience in words or manner, but accept your punishment for your improvement.

At school avoid scandalous talking, by which you make your teacher's work more difficult, annoy other pupils, and disturb the attention of yourself and others.

Attend to all that is told, sit up straight, and look at your teacher.

If you are to recite your lesson, open your book without noise, recite loudly, slowly, and distinctly, that every word and syllable may be understood.

Attend more to yourself than to others unless you are appointed monitor.

If you are not asked, keep quiet and do not prompt others. Let them speak and answer for themselves.

Toward your fellows, act lovingly and peacefully; do not quarrel with them, hit them, dirty their clothes with your shoes nor give them nicknames. Act toward them always as you would have them act toward you.

Keep your books clean inside and out; do not scribble or draw in them; do not lose or tear them.

When school is out do not make a clatter. In going down stairs, do not jump two or three steps at a time, lest you hurt yourself. Go quietly home.

Never appear among people looking indecent or dirty. Cut your nails at the proper time, and keep your clothes, shoes, and stockings neat and clean.

When you have made a promise, try to keep it, and beware of all lying and untruth.

Whatever you see in other Christian people that is good and proper, let it serve you as a model.

From *A Hundred Rules of Conduct for Children*
By Christopher Dock

THE PILGRIM
19201 Cherokee Rd.
Tuolumne, CA 95379

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SONORA, CA
PERMIT # 10

THE PILGRIM

VOL.45 MAY, 1998 No. 5

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." I Peter 2:11

THE LAST HOUR
John 2: 18

The sunset burns across the sky;
Upon the air its warning cry.
The curfew tolls, from tower to tower
O children 'tis the last, last hour!
The work that centuries might have done
Must crowd the hour of setting sun;
And through all lands the saving Name
Ye must in fervent haste, proclaim.

The fields are white to harvest, weep
O tardy workers, as ye reap,
For wasted hours that might have won
Rich harvests ere the set of sun.
We hear His footsteps on the way!
O work, while it is called today,
Constrained by love, endued with power,
O children, in this last, LAST HOUR!

--Selected from
Windowseat On Pinecraft

THE PILGRIM is a religious magazine published in the interests of the members of the Old Brethren Church. Subscription rate: $5.00 per year. Sample copies sent free on request.
Publishing editor: Leslie Cover
Address: THE PILGRIM, 19201 Cherokee Rd., Tuolumne, CA 95379

PRECEDING PENTECOST

The coming of the Holy Spirit is called the birthday of the church. It is true that this event was the beginning of a new era for God's people. From this time, the church began to grow rapidly and to spread steadily throughout the world. But in another sense, this unique event was simply the continuation of God's plan. Pentecost needs to be measured by the events which preceded it. God has dealt faithfully with His people since the very beginning. The coming of the Savior, the resulting salvation and sanctification of the Spirit are the climaxing of His love for His creation over the centuries of time.

In His Word, God uses natural events to penetrate our dull minds and teach us spiritual lessons. One such analogy is in the first chapters of Joel. Joel writes of a plague of locusts and compares it to the judgments of God upon Israel for their repeated departures from His will. Joel foretells this time of judgment as preceding God's mercy in sending the Savior and His Holy Spirit.

For a description of locusts and the destruction they cause, *World Book Encyclopedia* reports, "Locusts have been known since ancient times for their habit of destroying crops." They strike the very living of humans when they ruin food and destroy everything green as they go. Migrating swarms blank out the sun and travel hundreds of miles. Swarms have been tracked from Saskatchewan to Texas and have been found over the sea 1200 miles from any land. "In 1881, more than 1,300 tons of eggs were destroyed on the island of Cyprus. But the next year there seemed to be as many as ever." Only extremely cold areas are never visited by these grasshopper insects. Joel

tells of the total destruction of living vegetation: "The land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness." (Joel 2:3b) What a fitting picture of God's judgment on sinful man!

Joel calls men to receive the lessons these plagues bring, and truly turn to God who controls the pests. He promises to Israel a time of restoration after the punishment is complete.

Viewing Israel's history, we see the judgments and deliverance happening again and again. The period covered by the book of Judges is a good example. The overall picture, however, speaks of one great deliverance (and one Deliverer) which would be lasting--permanent--for all time. Jesus would come to deliver not only Israel's remnant, but all who would become the new Israel through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joel prophesied of this outpouring of the Spirit and the gracious offer of mercy following: "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call."

These earth-shaking events happened to the body of God's people. But something like it must occur in the lives of each one whom God receives as a child. The parable of the prodigal son is one that teaches us this development:

The unnamed boy rebelled against the loving provision of his father. He took his inheritance and wasted it in sin and "riotous living." Then the "locusts" descended upon him. He began to be in want; his friends left him; he became hungry and there was no food. What a parallel to the desolation left by the locusts described by Joel! What a truth not only to the chosen nation of Israel, but to each of us as we realized the consequences of sin and resistance to our Creator! The gracious acceptance back by the father of the lost son pictures the forgiveness through the atonement of Jesus and the bestowing of the Holy Spirit. "Bring forth the best robe, and

put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found." I am not sure which is pictured more accurately, Israel or me!

The giving by God of His Holy Spirit to His church and to each of His children is the sequel and crowning glory of His giving His Son on Calvary's cross for salvation and raising Him for our hope of eternal life.

After Pentecost the church had power. They were united and of one mind. When they prayed for boldness to speak His word, in spite of the opposition, God answered with support. "And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness." They were also of one heart and soul, and shared their earthly possessions, expressing the true love of God to one another.

After we are filled with God's Spirit, we too will have power and boldness to live for Christ and tell how He has delivered us from the destruction of sin. We will have love for the Brethren that allows us also to share what we have. We will exhibit that fruit of the Spirit which is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. The days of the locust plague are past; the time of control by God's Spirit is here.

SPIRIT POWER

The locusts in my life
Are judgments for my sin,
But sweet deliverance flows from Christ
And from His power within.

Destruction's heavy strokes
Lay low my soul in dust,
But Jesus speaks the tender words:
Come in My grace, and trust

My love to be your guide,
My power to be your stay,
My Spirit in your life reside;
From sin then come away.

Sweet Spirit come today
As once You came of old,
When men obeyed with one accord;
In tongues the story told.

Come fill us with Thy power;
Thy fruit display to all;
Come spread the truth this final hour,
And men to Jesus call. --L.C.

STRIFE

Strife. . . what do we think of it? or, what does God think of it? The Bible actually has a lot to say about it, and, even more importantly, about the godly quality of peace.

There are four hundred different references to *peace*, forty-one to *strife*, and two to *discord*!

Abram's example of making peace is wonderful: "And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren." (Gen. 13:8)

Notice, to make peace between him and Lot, he made himself, the elder, on the same level as the younger: "for we be brethren." He even placed himself lower than Lot by letting Lot pick the land first. In that time the elders were to give preference to the younger for politeness, but the younger was to give it back as a gesture of respect. Lot disrespected Abraham by taking what was not right for him to take.

Let us look again at the first question posed at the onset of this article: what does God think of strife? Pro. 6:16 says, "These six things doth the Lord hate. . . he that soweth discord

among brethren." We need to give some serious thought to God's perspective on strife.

Moses felt the load placed upon him by those who quarreled: "How can I myself alone bear . . . your strife?"

Who stirs up strife?

Pro. 6:14: "Frowardness is in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord."

Pro. 15:18: "A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife."

Pro. 16:28: "A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.

Pro. 17:19: "He loveth transgression that loveth strife: and he that exalteth his gate seeketh destruction.

Pro. 20:3: "It is an honour for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling."

Pro. 28:25: "He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the Lord shall be made fat."

Pro. 18:6: "A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes.

Pro. 26:21: "As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife."

I Cor. 3:3: "For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?"

I Tim. 6:4: "He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings. . ."

What is strife compared to?

Gal. 5:20: "Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies. . ."

Rom. 13:13: "Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying."

What is further spoken about strife?

Pro. 13:10: "Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom."

Phil. 2:3: "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves."

Tit. 3:9: "But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain."

Jas. 3:14: "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth."

Jas. 3:16: "For where . . . strife is, there is confusion and every evil work."

What does strife or discord mean?

Strife, controversy, dispute, quarrel, case at law, contention, contentious, intriguing for office, a desire to put one's self forward, a partisan and fractious spirit, arts, partisanship, gainsaying, opposition, rebellion, debate, wrangling, love of strife, eagerness to contend, and emulation.

Though all those words may not apply to "common" strife, they all are inter-connected.

Peace, the exact opposite of strife?

Peace is an attribute of God, and therefore should be an attribute of us as God's people. Other words for peace can include rest, quietness, exemption from the rage and havoc of war, harmony, security, safety, to make peace, and to establish harmony.

These words, especially harmony, can come only from a soul assured of its salvation through Christ. Giving thought to the subject of peace, let us consider these Bible verses:

Verses on peace: The Source. . .

II Thess. 3:16: "Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means."

Heb. 7:2: "To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;"

Heb. 13:20: "Now the God of peace. . ."

Verses on peace: The Christian's Response:

II Tim. 2:22: "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow. . . peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

Heb. 12:14: "Follow peace with all men . . . without which no man shall see the Lord:"

I Pet. 3:11: "Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it."

Jas. 3:18: "And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace."

Verses on peace: General thoughts:

I Tim. 2:2: "For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

Jas. 3:17: "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy."

Peace is indeed wonderful. We worship the Prince of Peace. We do not go to war. We are, or are we, really peaceable people? In our homes, are we really peaceful? Let us remember. . . "Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices with strife." (Pro. 17:1)

Jesus, the Prince of Peace, tells us to be such a people. He tells us not to fight (to stay in a state of national tranquillity). He tells us to live in peace. He tells us not to strike back. He gives peace, taking our fear away, and tells us to be content with our earthly lot. Christianity hangs on peace, which is an aspect of love. Is it any wonder why peace (or nonresistance) is rooted so deeply in the Bible?

"The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water: therefore leave off contention, before it be meddled with." (Pro. 17:14)

Remember, the Prince of Peace speaks of peace 400 times in His word. May God help us in all parts of our life in this part of love. . . peace.

--Calvin R. Johnson
Modesto, California

"HOW GREAT THOU ART!"

This greatly loved hymn of our generation has had a colorful history. The poem translated, "O Great God," came from Sweden. It was written in 1885 by Carl Boberg when he was twenty-six years old. Carl, a preacher, was caught in a thunderstorm coming home from a meeting. As the sun burst through the clouds, low on the horizon a lovely rainbow appeared. As the rainbow faded with the sinking of the sun, the singing of a thrush was heard. In the deepening dusk, the bell in the church tower began to toll, signifying a funeral that day. From this striking picture, a beautiful poem evolved. Each translation has enriched the poem, with each country adding its own flavor. Many people had a hand in creating the final draft we now have.

An English missionary by the name of Stuart K. Hine, who originally worked in the Western Ukraine, gave us the inspiring original English words as we know them today. Hine, working later in the vicinity of the Carpathian Mountains, was inspired by the beauty and the wonder of so great a God. He then worked in Romania where verse two was formed. One day he saw a peasant couple reading the Bible to villagers who began to weep as the story of the crucifixion was told. Verse three was born. In 1948, while he was working with World War II

refugees in Britain, the first question they asked was, "When are we going home? ..inspiring verse four.

So to Carl Boberg and Stuart K. Hine we owe our thanks for a modern-day hymn that will rank with the greatest hymns of all time. The melody is of Swedish origin and was revised by Jean Staneschi in 1929. --Selected

---

ACTS 1:9

To Bethany He led them out
And lifting up His hands,
While blessing them, they see that He
On earth no longer stands.

While they beheld with steadfast gaze,
The Lord was lifted high.
A cloud received Him out of sight;
They peered into the sky.

Ye men of Galilee, why stand
Ye gazing up to heaven?"
Asked angels of these wondering men.
This promise then was given:

"This Jesus taken up from you
And into heaven gone,
In this like way shall come again
From heaven's portals drawn."

With great rejoicing they returned
And worshipped Christ their Lord;
And there in praise and prayer they met
In love and one accord.
--Miriam J. Sauder from *Spiritual Songs & Hymns*

BIRTH

BOWSER -- A son, Wylan James, born May 5, to Allen and Rhoda Bowser of Harrison, Arkansas.

NOT FORGOTTEN

As one by one, through death we go,
And place within the grave
The body which our loved ones know,
Yield back the soul God gave,

We all desire that we may be
Remembered here below.
We put a stone, that all may see;
They stand there, row by row.

But then time passes, day by day,
And generations pass;
And memory fades, of those who lie
In quiet, beneath the grass.

But not one soul's forgotten there
By God who reigns on high.
In one event we all will share;
He'll call, and we'll reply.

Then He will say if we forgot,
Or if we kept His way.
If we forgot, He'll say "Depart."
"I don't know you," He'll say.

Let's keep His way so He will say,
"Come, enter life, My son;
You've not forgot to live My way,
And have the victory won."

--James Beery

THANK YOU FROM TOM AND CINDI ANDERSON

To all my brethren from so many different fellowships who have helped with this project,

I do not have adequate words to express to you the deep appreciation and love in my heart to all of you for what you have done in this building project. I hope I will be granted the strength and length of days to show you my appreciation in both deed and truth in the days to come by being of service to you in some way.

The structure you have built is very functional for its intended purpose (providing medical care for brethren who wish to be free of the insurance system's bondage and for humanity in need, as the Lord should direct); however, this structure is so very temporal. It is but a vapor; it could all be gone tomorrow; but the spiritual structure we have and relationships we have built, are eternal, priceless, and unshakable.

From the bottom of my heart I thank you. It is a privilege to not only be associated with you, but to actually be considered one of your brothers. May God bless each of you for all of your help. I hope in some way to be given the opportunity to serve each of you and your families.

God's richest blessings to each of you,
Forgive me for lack of better utterance and expression,
Your grateful brother Tom

I want to say "Thank you" to all those who have labored with us to build an addition on our house over the past year. Thanks for your hard work, your time, your financial support and prayers. I know that this will make it easier to provide better care for people in need of medical attention.

So many hands have helped in this building project that I am sure this is inspired by the Lord. I remember the day a minister

and his wife who were old friends, stopped by from South Dakota. They went home and sent a check explaining that they, too, wanted to be a part of what we were doing. I thank so many for sharing our vision and helping to meet the need.

Continue to pray that we have the strength and wisdom and love to serve those who need care.

Come and visit, even when you aren't sick!

Thank you sincerely,
Cindi Anderson

JESUS CHRIST: OUR ADVOCATE

God, in proving Himself to fallen humanity, presented no greater proof than when He became flesh and lived among us. The preparation for this took nearly four thousand years from the time it was promised until it came to pass.

The purpose of His coming was not to deliver us from physical suffering and death, but to deliver us from its fear and curse.

Man's faith in the promised Messiah prior to His coming, was their salvation. Although it was vague and difficult to understand, they claimed it with confidence and assurance. See Job 19:25.

Men of faith, prior to His coming, had God's approval by accepting physical suffering, death, and rejection of this world. (Hebrews 11), but they were unable to relate to all its significance. It was God's plan that when the promise was fulfilled they with us could be made perfect together. (Heb. 11:38,40)

The good news of salvation was also made known to those that died prior to His coming that were held in the prison of death. (I Peter 3:19)

To be physically alive and be able to relate to the fulfilled promise of Christ's coming is the grandest knowledge of the human heart. This is life eternal to know Him as our once-

crucified and again-risen Savior, and He is more that this: He is our great High Priest, at the right hand of God, on the throne of grace interceding for us--declaring us not guilty. This is one aspect of the promise that those who died prior to His coming could not have known.

It is only through this knowledge that man can communicate with God. "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." (Heb. 4:15,16)

"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." (I John 2:1,2) Christ is our Advocate; He speaks in our favor. He is also the propitiation for our sins. This means He has won our case.

To prove this knowledge calls us to a loving relationship with those that know and fear God. "And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works; Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Heb. 10:21-25) To neglect this commission is sin. "For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins." (verse 26)

--Kenneth Martin

CHILDREN'S PAGE

CHET COULD NOT WAIT!

Chet sat on the grass watching Mother swish the paint brush back and forth on his favorite plaything: the swing set. She was making the rusty old swing set a pretty blue.

"Mother, when can I swing again?" Chet asked for the fourth time.

"Tomorrow," answered Mother. "The paint must dry overnight before you swing again."

With a sigh, Chet settled back onto the grass to watch and wait. How he loved to swing! And what fun he had zipping down the slide! Thinking about what fun it was, made it hard to think of waiting until tomorrow to swing again.

Finally Mother put the last swipe of paint on the last swing seat. As she passed Chet on her way to clean up the brush, she said, "Just come away, Chet. Why don't you go make roads in the sandbox?"

Obediently, Chet ran to the sandbox and began running the 'dozer around, making pretend roadways. However, he did not forget about swinging. The more he thought about it, the more he longed to do it. Finally, after Mother had gone inside to fix dinner, he ran to look at the blue swing set again. "That paint looks dry," he thought. "I can't wait until tomorrow! No one will ever know if I swing a little bit."

Uh-oh, Chet! When he finished swinging, his hands and arms had blue paint on them. And what about the seat of his pants? That was blue, too! What a mess! Back to the sandbox, he ran. He sat on the edge of the sandbox at first, then got on his knees in the sand. What did he see on the edge of the sandbox? Blue paint! More mess! Mother had a big job getting the paint off Chet's hands and out of his clothes. The blue paint on the sandbox was left there and always reminded Chet of the time he could not wait.

Many times throughout your life, children, you will want something very badly, and you will think you cannot wait until the right time for it. But remember! Every time we try to have what we want too soon, it makes a "mess" in our lives. Learn to patiently wait until the right time, and you will be much happier and won't have "messes" to clean up.

--Linda Frick
Gettysburg, Ohio

THE PILGRIM
19201 Cherokee Rd.
Tuolumne, CA 95379

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SONORA, CA
PERMIT # 10

THE PILGRIM

VOL.45 JUNE--JULY, 1998 NOS. 6 & 7

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." I Peter 2:11

PRAISE THE LORD!

When we review the way He's led
The only thing that we have said is
Praise the Lord!
He's been so good! He's been so kind!
The only thought within our mind is
Praise the Lord!
Deliverance and guidance, too;
For all the things He's led us through, we
Praise the Lord!
For blessings all unknown before,
For grace and joy and peace--and more, we
Praise the Lord!
For confidence that He will lead--
For meeting every utter need--
For all He is--and Heaven indeed,
Praise the Lord!

--Eva Ham
Selected

THE PILGRIM is a religious magazine published in the interests of the members of the Old Brethren Church. Subscription rate: $5.00 per year. Sample copies sent free on request.
Publishing editor: Leslie Cover
Address: THE PILGRIM, 19201 Cherokee Rd., Tuolumne, CA 95379

GOD IS GOOD

This was the testimony of an elderly, devout Christian who is now gone on to his reward. He used to visit in our home, and without fail, at some point declared, "God is good!" It wasn't that he had had such an easy life. Far from it! He had been converted from a situation of carelessness and sin. (Haven't we all?) He had seen many troubles and disappointments. His only son, his only child, had died before him. But still his theme was "God is good."

This old brother at one time had operated a frosty shop and hamburger stand. One man said about him, "He'd rather talk about the Lord than sell a hundred hamburgers!" Quite a reputation!

Is it our testimony that God is good? Would people say things like that about us? Let us count some of the ways God is good to us:

We had the opportunity recently to attend a three-day event commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the publishing of *The Christian Hymnary.* We sang a lot and heard talks relating to our heritage of Christian hymns. Some spoke of the contrast between the music of heaven and that of the world. Some recounted stories of hymns and their authors, and all were thankful for the priceless gift of songs we have from God. We sang "martyr hymns," many of which were written as men or women were in prisons awaiting torture or execution for the testimony of Jesus. Thank God for the hymns of inspiration that have come to us at such great cost! Truly God is good.

The sacrifice of our Savior for our salvation is the very foundation of our faith and the backdrop for the hymns of the Church. "Behold the Savior of mankind

Nailed to the shameful tree!
How vast the love that Him inclined
To bleed and die for thee!"

We sing and we confess that Jesus died for me. Do we show by our obedience and our love for Him that we believe this? That we are lost without Him? God is good!

Can we place a value on our Christian heritage? Why were many of us born of Christian parents in an atmosphere of love? Was it because of our goodness? No, it was God's goodness, and this same goodness of God leads us to repentance, because even those born in Christian homes still need to repent and come to God through Jesus. Yes, God is good.

Do we appreciate the friendship of one another? I simply cannot count all the friends God has given me. We have visited a number of nursing homes where older people spend their last days here. It is a glaring truth that many in those places have few or no visitors. (This is an area to consider if anyone needs a place for Christian service.) But for some of the elderly ones--those in a caring Christian community--the room at times can hardly hold all the visitors. God is good to us.

We recently returned from a three-week trip to the East. There we were invited into the homes of friends--brethren and sisters in Christ. There were the long tables spread with food prepared to perfection: strawberries, meats, vegetables, and desserts. With modern methods of food preservation and preparation, we have better meals than those served to kings of the past. Better even than the good food were the welcome and fellowship enjoyed in these same homes. God is good, and He is the Provider of good things for His children.

God provides for us in many good ways. Jesus says (Matt. 7:9-11), "Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father

give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" The Savior gives a similar promise in Luke 11:13: ". . . how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" The gift of Himself--His Holy Spirit-- is one we cannot live without. David prayed, ". . . take not thy holy spirit from me." We sing:

If Thou withdraw Thyself from me
Ah whither shall I go?

Peter declared, "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." (John 6:68,69) Again we must confess, "God is good."

We could go on to list our modern transportation system that enables us to visit loved ones far away. We can talk of our government that may not always be right but still maintains precious freedoms that protect us from physical persecution that many have had to face. We are free to worship God and spread His Gospel. We have the Holy Bible to tell us of God's will for us and reveal His plan to save all who will come. We have lesser books that encourage us and strengthen our faith. Promises in His Word give us bright hope for the future, even in the middle of trying situations. God is so good!

What about those who have almost none of the good things listed here? We know there are those who have not heard the Gospel and are also without the blessings we take for granted. This knowledge places responsibility on us that have so much. Jesus said when He was here, "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." He also said, "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." Men have been praying; God has been sending. Yet there is need and work for all. God is good!

GOD IS GOOD

God is good! Proclaim it 'round you;
Tell how He can reign within.
Sing that Jesus came and found you--
Rescued you from death and sin.

Sing the praises of the Savior;
Sing for joy of sins forgiven;
God is good; He loves you ever;
Wants to bear you safe to heaven.

Blessings full and without measure
Have been ours through all our years.
Best of all, the heavenly treasure
Banishes our doubts and fears.

God is good; observe the harvest
White and ready now to reap.
Pray the Lord to send the helpers
To awaken those who sleep. --L.C.

CHRISTIAN, BEWARE!

How often we hear testimonies such as, "I know Jesus," "Yes, I am a Christian," "Praise the Lord," and such like. These statements seem rather cheap when we notice the shallow lifestyle of many such professing Christians. Are we tempted to sacrifice Scriptural principles because many seem to be rejoicing while living contrary to many of the simple teachings of God's Word?

The test is real. At times we may be accused of simply promoting church traditions when, in fact, the type of life we are living comes as a result of God's direction through the Bible.

As true Christians, we are called into service for our Lord. The Gospel message needs to be borne to erring mankind about us. As God's messengers, we have obligations to meet. Our Master gives us directions to follow. We dare not deviate from truth because of the whims of those who are seeking an easier way into heaven. The cross life remains paramount in the true Christian experience. As we follow God's Word closely, we may be able to withstand many obvious errors. But are we clearly aware of the errors that creep in through the guise of religion?

Could we learn some lessons from the account of the man of God in I Kings 13? This prophet was sent to convey God's message of condemnation to King Jeroboam, who had chosen to follow his own selfish will. The message was brought through with power. When Jeroboam resisted, the altar was rent and Jeroboam's hand was withered. Later it was restored again upon his request.

Jeroboam then urged the man of God: "Come home with me, and refresh thyself, and I will give thee a reward." This was met by a strong refusal because it was contrary to God's command to the prophet: "Eat no bread, nor drink water, nor turn again by the same way that thou camest." The man of God recognized the king's invitation as a temptation from an evil source, a call to compromise with evil, and did not yield.

But the real test was still coming. "Now there dwelt an old prophet in Bethel" who heard of this incident. In seeking the man of God, the old prophet found him resting under an oak. "Come home with me, and eat bread." The same temptation was extended to the man of God that had been offered by the evil king. Again the temptation was refused. But this time a subtle appeal was made in the Name of God: "I am a prophet also as thou art; and an angel spake unto me by the word of the Lord, saying, Bring him back with thee into thine house, that he

may eat bread and drink water. But he lied unto him." (I Kings 13:18) The man of God yielded.

God had not changed His orders to His messenger. It was still wrong for the prophet to disobey God and take heed to the voice of man. The consequences had to be suffered; the man of God perished.

Now, how is it with us today after we have accepted God's call to service and have gone forth to witness for Him? May it be that we could be found lax in our Christian endeavor? Could it be that we have been bringing the message through and have been withstanding many temptations to compromise with the world and now have succumbed to weariness?

Let us beware! Satan may be ready to spring another snare upon us. Many are professing that they know Jesus and that they have had revelations that authorize them to ignore some of the simple teachings in God's Word in relation to nonconformity (Romans 12:2), simplicity (I Peter 3:3), modesty (I Timothy 2:9), and so forth. They may try to persuade those who are humbly complying to God's will in these areas to yield their traditional ways to a less restrictive lifestyle.

God's Word has not changed nor will it change. The consequences of disobedience are the same--spiritual death. We dare not yield to the voice of man if it is contrary to God's direction. Let us remain awake, read God's Word, and pray for strength to follow its commands that we remain spiritually alive unto eternity.

By John D. Martin in *Light of Life*
Selected by Herman Royer

BIRTH

CONING -- A daughter, Jessalyn Rachel, born June 7, to Thad and Suzanne Coning of Goshen, Indiana.

MEETING HOUSES OF THE OLD BRETHREN

This month we begin a series of articles on meeting places of the Old Brethren Church. We sometimes call them "churches," but really the Church is not the building. It is the assembly of people--the body of Christ. Furthermore, it is not limited to one "denomination" or even to a single group of denominations. The Church of Jesus Christ includes the redeemed of all time and throughout the entire world. Therefore we call the buildings "meeting houses" where Christians meet to worship God and hear the Gospel proclaimed, to sing and pray together, and to enjoy the fellowship of God's family.

Currently there are four main buildings in use besides homes and rooms where meetings are held. But there have been several others not in use now or no longer used by the Old Brethren.

Our first meeting house will be the Cober Church in Vaughan Township near Maple, Ontario, Canada. We choose it first as it has recently been the place of a commemorative meeting of the Old Brethren in that area.

THE COBER CHURCH

The historic Cober Church on Dufferin Street was built in 1888 of local first growth pine and is still in a good state of preservation. The benches show the marks of the hand plane as do the unpainted floor boards. It is a small white frame church in a beautiful setting of maple and pine trees, partially surrounded by the well known Vaughan woods. The adjoining church shed, which accommodated the horses that brought the families to services, is considered unique to be still standing today.

Brethren in Christ members, formerly known as River Brethren, came up from Somerset and Lancaster Counties in Pennsylvania and formed the nucleus of the congregation which was organized in 1808. For some sixty years the meetings were rotated in sixteen different homes. A well-attended lovefeast convened in the barn of the Baker Homestead in 1846.

Peter Cober was chosen bishop in 1831. Early burials took place on neighborhood farms before Bishop Peter Cober and Michael Baker, brother-in-laws on adjoining farms, each gave a half acre for a burying ground where their farms formed a common front on Dufferin Street. It is still in use and was enlarged in 1969. Here are buried members of the Baker, Reaman, Heise, Cober, and Winger families.

Most families have graves of very small children, many of whom died from diphtheria. The Schell family buried five children as late as 1900 from the dread disease. The monument reads simply, "Asleep in Jesus." Diphtheria is not common today, but the little stone of a child, Betty Baker, buried in 1969 reads, "Died in a car accident." Each century has its own perils, wrote my mother, Edna (Reaman) Baker.

The Old Brethren's first visit in the area was June 10, 1938, following correspondence after the initial contact my parents, Amos and Edna Baker, had made with them on their wedding trip in March of 1937. Elders Owen Cripe, California; D. V. Skiles and David and Hettie Skiles, Rossville, Indiana; and Edward Royer, Camden, Indiana, made that first trip. Five Canadian members united with them, and a Lovefeast was enjoyed then. The Indiana congregation has faithfully ministered and held a Lovefeast there each fall into the 90's.

Our wedding in 1964 was the second of five marriages solemnized in this meeting house. I was carried there as a child, and fondly recollect the rare summer Sundays when we walked the back lane to church with our Mother or Aunt Bertie. At

the annual spring cleaning the sisters scrubbed the unpainted pine floors with homemade soap and brush.

I have a deep sense of gratitude to the part this church has been in my life as I acknowledge that the prayers of these devoted saints have followed me. Our rich treasury of hymns sung reverently there is now part of my heritage. The spiritual nurturing from the inspired sermons by godly teachers is immeasurable. Mine was a priceless privilege!

On June 7, 1998, the Old Brethren held a commemorative service marking the close of an era, with Elders Melvin Coning, Kenneth Martin, and Leslie Cover participating. A committee has been formed to care for the building's maintenance and appoint at least an annual service.

Well preserved, so close to the border of Metropolitan Toronto, this church's quiet simplicity suggests to the passer-by a serenity, a link with pioneer days, a positive voice for eternity.

--Martha Cover

ADDRESS CHANGES

Aaron Cable's 2915 Grand Point Road
Chambersburg, PA 17201
(717) 263-5163

Jake Gibbel's 1259 N. Chippewa
Greenville, OH 45331

ADDRESS BOOK CORRECTIONS

Larry Cable's phone: (937) 854-0160
Robert Ray Pletcher (add middle name)

OBITUARY

DAVID LUTHER HUFFMAN was born to Alvie A. and Ida Mae (Rapp) Huffman at Olustee, Oklahoma, on January 25, 1911. He peacefully passed away on May 8, 1998, at the age of 87 years, 3 months, and 13 days. His last 81 years were spent near Dayton, Ohio.

At the age of eighteen, through Christian baptism, he espoused Jesus as his personal Savior to which faith he remained faithful.

David was married to Bessie E. Coning on December 15, 1934. To this union were born six sons; their first, Loyd, passed away on May 16, 1937. Daddy was active in farming until he sustained major injuries from an accidental fall in July, 1976. He patiently bore his resulting afflictions until his passing nearly twenty-two years later.

In addition to his wife of sixty-three years, he is survived by five sons and their wives: Marlin and Eva, Allen and Marie, Byron and Marie, James and Faye, and Levi and Norma; twenty-three grandchildren; thirty-three great-grandchildren; one sister-in-law, Ella Huffman; two sisters, Nannie Graybill and Addie and husband Kenneth Graybill.

He was preceded in death by a son, Loyd; brothers, John and Charles; sisters, Bertha Brumbaugh, Ella Thomas, Mary Huffman, and Susan Beckner.

Funeral services were held on May 12, 1998, by the Old Brethren. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, Englewood, Ohio. Our loss is his eternal gain.

The family wishes to express their sincere thanks and appreciation to all who remembered us in so many ways during the past days and years of Daddy's life.

--The Family

JESUS CHRIST: OUR SUCCOUR

When God became a companion to the human race, He took not on Himself the nature of angels, but took on Him the seed of Abraham.

"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death that is the devil." (Heb. 2:14) Therefore now we have an high priest that can be touched with the feeling of our infirmities that was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." (I Cor. 10:13) "For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted." (Heb. 2:18)

God taking on Himself the nature of man in the person of Jesus, His only begotten Son, subjected Himself to all of Satan's powers and was tempted in all things that men encounter, yet did not once submit to him. This proved the strength and power of God and that Satan will be totally powerless in the final judgment and destruction of evil and the world in which we live.

While Jesus' nature was the same as man's, He assured us that he knows all about Satan's sinful devices and that He is able to assist us to victory over him if we but put our trust and faith in Him, for He hath said, "Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world," and that He will never leave us nor forsake us.

To know Christ as our succour requires a relationship with Him that proves this confidence and trust. The proof of this is how we receive those He sends into our lives. "He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a

prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward." (Matt.10:41) "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me." (Jn. 13:20) "Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God." (Rom. 15:7) "That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." (Rom. 15:6) "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. . . and hast loved them as thou hast loved me." (Jn. 17:21,23)

To receive one another as Christ received us cannot be accomplished by our natural powers. It cannot be legislated. It cannot he bound inside of congregational settings. History of the church proves this without question. Although we believe in congregational, corporate discernment and support, this can never keep us from receiving a righteous man outside of our own setting. He that refuses to receive a righteous man in the name of a righteous man, refuses to receive Christ as our succour.

The faithful in Christ will never be separated from one another and are receiving one another as Christ has received us. Only in Christ as our succour can we declare "one Lord, one faith, one baptism."

--Kenneth Martin
Nappanee, Indiana

BAPTISMS

Baptized in the Indiana congregation were Wanda Pletcher on April 26, Regina Bayer on May 17, and Jennifer Brandt on June 14. May they be faithful in the Church of Jesus Christ.

FOR YOUTH

Jesus Is Our Token

Oh upon that cruel cross
He died an unfair death for me.
I never must forget;
His is the only way I see.

How can anyone forget
What love that He did show;
Dying for unbelievers,
So that Heaven they all can know.

He was blasphemed and beaten,
Unmercifully down-spoken,
But this is what the Lord God planned
For Jesus is our token.

Now if someone comes up to you
And asks you what you say,
Do you tell them about Jesus
And His heavenly way?

Or are you ashamed of Him?
Knowing the world thinks you wrong,
Doing His wonderful tasks,
And singing a heavenly song?

Tricia Lengyel
New Madison, Ohio
Selected by Herman Royer

CHILDREN'S PAGE

"Honor thy father and thy mother."

"Mind your manners, boys, and play nicely," were Mother's parting words as Lyle and Lonnie climbed out of the car. The twins were excited to be spending an afternoon with Terry while Mother went to town.

First, Terry took them to a back corner of the barn where five pudgy pups were beginning to crawl around. Then, to the calf pen they went, to see Terry's very own calf that was only two days old.

Suddenly, Terry remembered he had a new bicycle to show the boys. Away to the garage they raced. There was the shiny purple bike, just waiting to be ridden. Terry generously offered to let the twins ride it.

"Me first! Me first!" yelled Lonnie. He quickly pushed the bike outside and jumped on. Up and down the driveway he rode. Then back to the barn and out to the end of the driveway again. Finally, as he rode past once again, Terry stepped out and tried to stop him, but Lonnie just pedaled faster. Lyle tried to stop him on the next round, but he didn't slow down a bit. Finally, Terry and Lyle decided to go into the house and play with Terry's farm machinery.

After awhile, Lonnie began to think maybe he was missing some fun in the house. He braked to a skidding halt, hopped off the bike, and let it fall in the middle of the driveway. Into the house he ran, to play "farm" with Lyle and Terry.

Soon Mother returned from town and drove partway into the drive. Terry's mom rushed out to rescue the bike before Mother could drive on in. And, poor Terry! He found that the gravel put several scratches on his nice, shiny purple bicycle!

Which twin honored his parents by showing that his parents had taught him manners and kindness? Which twin did not

honor his parents? Instead, his behavior was as if his parents had taught him to be selfish and careless. Did his parents really teach him that? Which twin was the happier boy that evening?

Linda Frick
Gettysburg, Ohio

GRIEF

Grief is perhaps the most difficult of human emotions to face, though it has the potential for being the most therapeutic, as well. Grief is not a bad thing--for it is the cost of having loved. If we had not cared, we would not grieve.

from *Pulpit Helps*

THE PILGRIM
19201 Cherokee Rd.
Tuolumne, CA 95379

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SONORA, CA
PERMIT # 10

THE PILGRIM

VOL. 45 AUGUST,1998 No. 8

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." I Peter 2:11

O WONDERFUL, WONDERFUL WORD

O wonderful, wonderful Word of the Lord!
True wisdom its pages unfold;
And though we may read them a thousand times o'er,
They never, no never, grow old!
Each line hath a treasure, each promise a pearl,
That all if they will may secure;
And we know that when time and the world pass away,
God's Word shall forever endure.

O wonderful, wonderful Word of the Lord!
The lamp that our Father above
So kindly has lighted to teach us the way
That leads to the arms of His love!
Its warnings, its counsels, are faithful and just;
Its judgments are perfect and pure;
And we know that when time and the world pass away,
God's Word shall forever endure.

O wonderful, wonderful Word of the Lord!
Our only salvation is there;
It carries conviction down deep in the heart,
And shows us ourselves as we are.
It tells of a Savior, and points to the cross,
Where pardon we now may secure,
For we know that when time and the world pass away,
God's Word shall forever endure.

J. L. Sterling, c.1886

THE PILGRIM is a religious magazine published in the interests of the members of the Old Brethren Church. Subscription rate: $5.00 per year. Sample copies sent free on request.
Publishing editor: Leslie Cover
Address: THE PILGRIM, 19201 Cherokee Rd., Tuolumne, CA 95379

GOD'S WORD

The Word of God is quick (or alive), powerful, sharp, piercing, dividing, and discerning. It is called a lamp, a hammer to break rock, and a fire. Is this how we perceive God's Word? John writes that the Word was in the beginning and it was God. He is obviously describing Jesus, for he continues, "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. . ." With this description, we can grasp the incomparable magnificence of God's Word. An unused Bible on the shelf simply does not give us the picture. Neither is it realistic to study the Bible purely as history or as literature, though it is dependable for both.

The Psalmist declared, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." It lights the way for our walk in life spiritually and guides our feet in their physical steps. "Feet that be swift in running to mischief" is one of the seven things that the Lord hates--that are called "abomination unto him." Therefore, if the Word can give us light that our feet do not carry us astray, it should have our careful attention.

In history where the Word of God was missing, darkness prevailed. Isaiah wrote (60:2) about gross darkness covering the earth and the people. He told of the light shining--the Lord coming and the people who walked in darkness seeing a great light. We have it today, but many are missing it.

We might ask, "How can men miss seeing so great a light?" Jesus, again quoting Isaiah, said, "For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them." (Matthew 13:15) He concludes saying, "But blessed are your

eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear." It is a special privilege to have understanding of the Word of God.

God's Word tells us of His will. When we were boys doing projects on our family farm, perhaps planting corn, irrigating, or digging post holes, we would sometimes wonder exactly what our father expected of us. We often concluded, "Let's go ask him." He would then give us the directions we needed. Sometimes he would say, "I'll come and show you how to do it." This is only an imperfect comparison to what God has done for us. It is imperfect because God has told us first. We have His Word. Jesus has come and not only demonstrated by example what God wants His children to be, but has sacrificed Himself to make obedience possible. (Without being born again, we are unable to please Him. [John 3:1-8, Hebrews ll:6])

From our Brethren past, we have been given the priceless concept of God's Word as our rule for faith and practice. This is fundamental--foundational. An alternate view would be letting God's Spirit lead us. This too is fundamental, but we need to be sure that the guiding spirit is God's Holy Spirit. We are instructed to try the spirits. Does the message harmonize with the Word of God? "Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost." (I Cor. 12:3) Remember that Jesus is the Word. Satan has various ways to deceive. If our hearts are not yielded in submission to God--if we have not given up our own will--we will misinterpret even the very Word of God. See the many differing denominations of our time, all claiming to follow God's Word. How vital it is to seek His way with all our hearts! We are in the right way when we can, by the Holy Spirit of God, seek for clear understanding of His Holy Word.

During the Dark Ages, the devil used a different tactic: there was a famine in the land, possibly like Amos prophesied that God would send; ". . . not a famine of bread, nor a thirst

for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord." The Bible was hidden--not only because it was scarce and hard to reproduce--but because the people did not have it in the language they understood, and the leaders wished to keep it so. John Wycliffe, named "The Morning Star of the Reformation," attacked the false concepts of the Roman church in the 1300's. But his most important work is said to be his translating the Scriptures into the language of the common people of England. A similar conclusion could be drawn from a careful study of the work of Martin Luther in Germany. It is difficult to appreciate having God's Word in our own language. Perhaps we would place higher value on it if we had to learn Greek and Hebrew to read its priceless message!

How the Word of God has been preserved and collected makes an interesting study. God used men to select and compare and eliminate from the *canon* or Scriptures any writings that could not pass the tests of accuracy and agreement with one another. Ancient writers quoted from the various epistles and gospels showing their use and value in the early church. However, for many of us, it is sufficient to know that God, who gave His Word to His people, has preserved it and will protect it to the very end. Jesus promised that "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."

How important is it that we ***obey*** God's Word? It should be an unnecessary question, but some seem to place emphasis on believing but not so much on obeying. If we study Hebrews 3 and 4 carefully, we see that the words translated *believed* and *unbelief* in 3:18,19 and 4:11 mean also *obey* and *disobedience*. Compare other translations as well. In our own experience with one another, when we believe someone, we do not disregard his words. In the disastrous flood of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, when the dam broke and the towns below were swept away, the people were warned to evacuate. One man did not believe the

warning and perished in the overwhelming flood. Those who believed fled to higher ground.

Jesus said, "Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things that I say?" He also charged us in various ways (John 14:15,21): "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Paul wrote in I Cor. 14:37: "If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord," Peter uses the expression, "As obedient children." (I Peter 1:14) John writes (II John 4): "I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received commandment from the Father." Jude writes that we "should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

With all this, we know that none of us can boast. Our obedience at best is by the power of God's Holy Spirit. We need His grace daily. But may we never doubt the authority of God's Word or our duty to obey it. As a light, it leads us to God's way and teaches us to walk in it. As a hammer, it breaks the hard hearts that come to God in repentance. And as a fire, God's Word consumes our dross and refines us as gold. Let us read and study the Word, memorize it, hide it in our hearts that we might not sin against Him. --L.C.

THE WAY THAT SEEMETH RIGHT

"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Pro. 16:25) This speaks of deception or delusion. The Scriptures plainly teach that all unrighteousness is sin. Matthew 7:13,14 mentions the wide gate and the broad way in contrast to the strait gate and the narrow way. We all desire to be on the right way and in the end inherit eternal life, but there are certain basic requirements to meet to do this.

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." (John 3:36) "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." (John 14:23)

These Scriptures clearly indicate the need of faith and obedience. In Hebrews 12:14, it says, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord," and in Luke 9:23, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." Besides faith and obedience, these verses outline the need of holiness, or separation from the world and unto God, which is denying self and bearing your cross. Looking at it from our natural point of view, it looks like an impossible proposition. But Jesus has promised life--the more abundant life--and also fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore. When we think of the way that *seems* right, it is evident that the right way has been missed.

One of the delusions of our day is the wrong view of grace. Many look at grace as blanket coverage for sins and failures. The reasoning goes like this: "I am human and have sinful tendencies and am imperfect. Therefore I fail, but God's grace takes care of it, and eventually all will come out all right. I smoke a little; I use bad language sometimes; I allow lustful thoughts and entertain them; and I also enjoy unclean stories, but that's the way it is. I just can't help it, but God's grace overlooks it all, so eventually I hope to get to heaven." To this could be added a long list: malicious attitudes, envy, love of material things, and so forth. This definitely is not the kind of life outlined in the Scriptures. (Romans 6:15)

The abundant grace of our Lord Jesus Christ enables us to forsake sin and live a life of peace and joy in the Holy Ghost, overcoming our natural tendencies and fleshly appetites. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Titus 2:11,12

teaches , "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." How much pride can a man have and not be proud in the sight of God? How much worldliness can we entertain and still maintain holiness? How much hatred, envy, or malice can we show and still have the peace of God in our hearts?

We live in a corrupt generation, and unless we, by God's grace, can demonstrate practical holiness in our everyday conduct, I fear we only have the way that seems right, which will end in death. We are either separated unto God or separated from Him in the final analysis. "Depart from me" will be the words spoken to many who thought they were His children. (Matt. 7:23)

May we appropriate the grace that was manifest in Christ Jesus, to live a life of peace, joy, and satisfaction in full assurance of faith, waiting in anticipation of His return to receive us unto Himself, ever to be in His glorious presence.

By Harry Baer in *Light of Life*
Selected by Herman Royer

THE ROSSVILLE OLD BRETHREN MEETING HOUSE

According to the March, 1921, issue of the *Testimony of Truth* (published every two months), "The (Old) Brethren of central Indiana agreed to build two meeting houses, one two and one half miles southwest of Rossville, Indiana, and another about two miles south of Camden, Indiana." The Rossville house was built first, and construction must have proceeded apace as the May, 1921, *Testimony of Truth* says, "At this writing, the brethren near Rossville, Indiana, have the frame of their meeting house up and will soon be under roof." My mother's diary says

the first meeting in the new meeting house was held May 29, 1921. This is believed to be the first meeting house used by the Old Brethren in Indiana. Prior to this, meetings were held in members' homes.

The building site came out of the John Skiles farm and is said to have been donated. It is believed that Isaac Wagner was overseer of the building project. The dimensions of this building were thirty-two feet north and south by forty-four feet east and west. The main auditorium was thirty feet by thirty-two feet. Entrance was through a single door on the south side. There was also a door on the west end, but this was rarely used.

A cast iron wood-fired stove in the center of the room provided heat. Kerosene lamps with reflectors were mounted on the walls, and candles were placed on communion tables before electric lights were installed sometime between 1955 and 1960. A number of the benches were made with hinged backs which could be raised to a level position and used as tables at communion time. The hardware for these tables was hand forged by Daniel V. Skiles, also known as D. V. or Danny. These bench backs were one 22 inch wide board and are said to have been sawn from cottonwood logs supplied by Daniel Brovont.

A small room in the southeast corner of the building contained a cast iron stove and rocking chairs for mothers with infants. A stairway exited from this room to a loft or attic overhead where visitors from a distance might lodge overnight.

The northeast corner room was called a kitchen, although it contained none of the conveniences that are considered essential in modern kitchens. The only thing that set it apart as a special room was some shelving on the walls. This is where food was prepared and dishes were washed at communion meetings. A ten feet by twelve feet lean-to attached to the northeast corner of the building next to the kitchen housed the cooking facilities. These consisted of two large, cast iron kettles set in a

brickwork furnace which was wood fired. This is where meat was cooked and water was heated at communion time. Water was pumped by hand at a nearby outdoor well in all kinds of weather. There was no indoor plumbing.

By 1979 the only members remaining in the area were Elmer and Rosa Brovont, and it was decided to discontinue services at Rossville. The last worship service was held August 12, 1979. Furnishings were removed, and in January of 1980, the property was sold to David and Janet Royer who were the owners of the former John Skiles farm. In 1987-88 the Royers built a house on the southeast portion of the former meeting house yard. Janet, now widowed, lives here.

In July, 1998, the Rossville meeting house retains most of its original appearance except that steel siding has been applied and roll doors have been installed on the west end. The building is used for storage of, among miscellaneous items, a vintage automobile. The good people who built this house of worship would have been chagrined at the thought that it might house an automobile.

--Harold Royer
Goshen, Indiana

BIRTHS

MOSER -- A son, Austin Keith, born July 23 to Kendall and Lorrine Moser of Goshen, Indiana.

COVER -- A son, Joseph Craig, born July 24 to Joseph and Laura Cover of Sonora, California.

MARRIAGE

MARTIN -- COVER Matthew Martin and Sarah Cover were united in marriage on July 18 near Tuolumne, California.

New address: 25623 C. R. 44, Rt. 4
Nappanee, IN 46550

THE REASON

We fumble and stumble as we go along;
And shallow the worship, and feeble the song;
And often we wonder, just what has gone wrong
That we don't experience the power to be strong.

Why doesn't conviction cause more to turn in,
And why are so many still living in sin?
Is God's Spirit failing o'er Satan to win?
Not God, is the problem! We must look within.

If we don't experience His promises true,
Then it is because we His will, will not do;
For He is all-powerful and will see us through,
If we heed His Spirit, and our will subdue.

Each promise He's given is for us to claim,
If we meet conditions He gives for the same.
And we'll be victorious if it is our aim
To only bring honor and praise to His name.

Then deeper and better will our worship be,
And brighter the witness that others will see.
And then will conviction draw more to be free,
As through our example the Savior they see.

--James Beery

ADDRESS CHANGE

Merideth Cable: 67445 C. R. 11
Nappanee, IN 46550
(219) 831-4675

OBITUARY

BESSIE ELLEN HUFFMAN was born to Daniel and Catherine (Wampler) Coning at Dayton, Ohio, on September 12, 1916. She peacefully passed away on July 5, 1998, at the age of 81 years, 9 months, and 23 days. She spent her entire life near Dayton, Ohio.

At the age of sixteen, through Christian baptism, she espoused Jesus Christ as her personal Savior to which faith she remained faithful. She became a member of the Old Brethren Church.

Bessie was married to David L. Huffman on December 15, 1934. To this union of over sixty-three years were born six sons; their first, Loyd, passed away on May 16, 1937. Mother was a busy homemaker and housewife to her active farming husband until he sustained major injuries from an accidental fall in July, 1976. She patiently bore his resulting afflictions and very devotedly cared for his many and continual needs until his passing only fifty-eight days prior to hers. Her health declined very rapidly after Daddy's death, but she leaves us now with an excellent example of devotion and Christian faith.

She is survived by five sons and their wives: Marlin and Eva, Allen and Marie, Byron and Marie, James and Faye, and Levi and Norma; twenty-three grandchildren, thirty-three great-grandchildren, one sister, Eliza Miller, two brothers-in-law, Daniel Garber and Abram Hess.

In addition to her husband, David, she was preceded in death by a son, Loyd; brother, Elmer Coning; sisters, Orpha Garber and Mary Hess.

Funeral services were held on July 8, 1998, by the Old Brethren in the Bear Creek Old German Baptist meeting house. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, Englewood, Ohio. Our loss is her eternal gain. --The Family

FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE

"And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." (John 20:30,31) "For whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:13)

"For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. The face of the Lord is against them that do evil. . ." (Psalm 34:15,16) "The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth." (Psalm 145:18)

The love of Christ revealed in this invitation and the blessings that would follow can be nothing less that a living testimony of His personal walk which He revealed while living in the flesh as we are.

To claim His name and not be delivered from the power of sin is Satan's most effective tool. It is a snare and trap that is leading multitudes to eternal destruction. Claims are being made in honor of His name in all walks of life, with success stories on the battlefield, in Hollywood, in the sports arena, and in modern Christian magazines. Even in divorce and remarriage and in sodomy, success stories in His name are claimed by those that are totally alienated from Christ's teaching and the life He lived.

There are no mystical powers in calling upon the name of the Lord. To call upon His name requires a knowledge of what this name signifies and the purpose for which His name is to be called upon.

The purpose for Christ's coming into the world was to deliver man from the power of Satan. Christ, proving His

ability to do this, is now the confidence of all those that know and call upon His name.

Those that call upon His name in truth are not using His name for success stories in the physical realm. Although we acknowledge Him as the giver of all good which is due His great name, this is not the purpose for which we are to call upon and prove the power in His name. Physical success in this world is no more than the world is claiming, for the world is also successful in the physical. (The just and the unjust receive rain alike.)

The victory and success of the early church was not in physical excellence, but in suffering and death at the hands of those that despised the name of Jesus. Those that truly know Jesus and claim His salvation are in some way suffering for His name's sake. ". . . He that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin," but those that are suffering are not asking for pity or sympathy but in this are glorifying His most holy name.

Only those that are calling on the name of the Lord in truth are being delivered from the power of darkness and are walking in the light of His salvation. "But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you." (Matthew 5:44) To be able to do this the flesh has to suffer and die. The apostle Paul declared that this was a daily experience for him.

Jesus is still the cause for Satan's rage, and those that claim His cause are tested daily in the spirit, the mind, and the heart, in relationships with our fellowmen, and are proving love without dissimulation. For His name's sake we must do those things that accompany salvation. By this shall all men know that we are His ambassadors and that we are true representatives of His great name.

--Kenneth Martin

FOR YOUTH
A New, Clean Heart

Jesus, hear me, make me new;
I want a new, clean heart.
Every deed, yes, will be true;
I pray to never part.

No more words my tongue will speak
To make someone feel bad;
Your strength will help when I am weak;
Happiness must be had.

No more wrong deeds I will do
On the inside or out.
Whenever I may need you,
In prayer to you I'll shout.

O, my God, a new, clean heart
For life eternally:
Love and peace you will impart;
With me you'll always be.

--Jennifer Brandt

OUR CHILDREN

Let us raise our children to be wise,
To be little in their own eyes.

Let them learn to quickly forsake wrong,
And in the right, always be strong.

Let them learn to seek out only God
And walk on earth as holy sod.

Let them learn to persevere in prayer,
To place all needs within God's care.

Let them be honest friends to all,
To teach the true way from the fall.

Let them help multitudes, God to seek,
And like Moses, be truly meek.

Let them be the good salt and bright light
That shows a way out of the night.

Let them always go a Godly way
And faithful be till endless day.

--Sharon See

CHILDREN'S PAGE

That Little Girl's Mother Lied to Her!

Eva stood quietly near the door of the small store while Mama selected the items that were on her shopping list. The door opened, and in came Little Girl and her mother. Little Girl talked to the lady at the cash register; then she went to the candy shelves. Taking a bag of gummi worms, she laid them on the cash register counter for her mother to buy. That done, she went over to where Eva stood and was soon busy looking at books.

When Little Girl's mother came to the register to pay for her groceries, she quietly put the gummi worms back on the candy shelf. Going out of the door, Little Girl asked for her gummi worms. Her mother said, "They're in the sack," which satisfied Little Girl.

Eva had watched all this with much interest. When she and Mama were safely in the car, Eva blurted our, "That little girl's mother lied to her!" Then she told Mama the whole story.

Mama's face looked sad. "I'm sorry a mother would lie to her children," she said. "That little girl will not be able to trust her parents, even when she is grown up. And the little girl will think it is all right to tell lies, so she'll grow up being untruthful. God's Word tells us, 'Lie not one to another,' and in Proverbs a lying tongue is listed as one of the things God hates. We will have to pray for the little girl and her mother, won't we?"

"I'm glad you and Daddy don't lie to me," Eva said. "I know I can believe you all the time!"

--Linda Frick
Gettysburg, Ohio

THE PILGRIM
19201 Cherokee Rd.
Tuolumne, CA 95379

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SONORA, CA
PERMIT # 10

THE PILGRIM

VOL. 45 SEPTEMBER, 1998 No. 9

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." I Peter 2:11

GIVE OF YOUR BEST TO THE MASTER

Give of your best to the Master;
Give of the strength of your youth;
Throw your soul's fresh, glowing ardor
Into the battle for truth.
Jesus has set the example;
Dauntless was He, young and brave;
Give Him your loyal devotion,
Give Him the best that you have.

Give of your best to the Master;
Give Him first place in your heart;
Give Him first place in your service,
Consecrate every part.
Give, and to you shall be given;
God His beloved Son gave;
Gratefully seeking to serve Him,
Give Him the best that you have.

Give of your best to the Master;
Naught else is worthy His love;
He gave Himself for your ransom,
Gave up His glory above;
Laid down His life without murmur,
You from sin's ruin to save;
Give Him your heart's adoration,
Give Him the best that you have.

By Howard B. Grose

THE PILGRIM is a religious magazine published in the interests of the members of the Old Brethren Church. Subscription rate: $5.00 per year. Sample copies sent free on request.
Publishing editor: Leslie Cover
Address: THE PILGRIM, 19201 Cherokee Rd., Tuolumne, CA 95379

BACK TO SCHOOL

Across the nation, school buses are rolling again. Tiny first-graders carry books and pencil boxes, crayons and rulers. Older ones reluctantly leave the freedom of summer vacation and take up the seemingly onerous task of learning. Merchants know the market and advertise "back to school" specials. Perhaps some mothers breathe a sigh to see their first child begin the school years. For others, the sigh may be one of relief that once again an organized program occupies the minds and hands of the youngsters so full of life and energy.

How about us older ones? Do we ever go back to school? Perhaps a better question is, "Do we ever get out of school?" For learning goes on in some fashion all our days. Isaiah writes to Israel in his passionate opening chapter: "Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow." If we are not learning to do well we could be learning the patterns of evil habits, for learning takes place as long as we live.

In school we memorize, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Study can forestall shame at test time. But these words were written by Paul, not primarily to children, but to Timothy, the first bishop of the church of the Ephesians. He was a young man (Let no man despise thy youth. . ." I Tim, 4:12) but certainly not a child. This "study" passage is for us adults. We should be ever learning good things that bring us to the knowledge of the truth. (Read about the error regarding learning in II Tim. 3:7.) "Never too old to learn" is an important motto. In a store recently we heard the manager say, like we all can, "Well, I learned something today."

Parents, teachers, and preachers should remember that "the day we stop learning is the day we stop teaching!"

Another Scripture we use in school is I Thess. 4:11: "And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business. . ." This is certainly a good classroom motto, but this passage, too, was written to adults in the setting of other very serious teaching. To learn to be quiet in both outward expression and inmost spirit is vital to our composure and our testimony.

For those who have been born anew into the family of God, there is so much to learn. How can we possibly absorb enough, even in a lifetime, to make us "wise unto salvation"? James writes that if we lack wisdom, we should "ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally. . ." God is faithful to teach us. What are some of the methods He uses? How do we learn?

One learning method is "the hard way." In other words we experience the knocks and blows that come from our mistakes. If we are good learners, we avoid making the same errors. If we are slow learners, we take the knocks again and again.

Another way is from the verse in II Timothy: study. A glimpse into the field of books shows us much that is good and useful. Above all others stands the Bible, the Word of God. When I was a boy, we children heard Grandfather speak of the Good Book. Peter writes of the "sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place. . ." Lack of learning was part of the darkness of the Dark Ages. As men began the awakening or "renaissance," they realized that the key to freedom and knowledge was reading. They began to organize schools, not because the state said they must, but because they knew its importance. If their children could read, they could read the Word of God. The Christians thought that the girls as well as the boys should read. With this purpose came the need for the Word of God in the language of the common people. God raised up translators like John Wycliffe, William Tyndale, and

Martin Luther. He gave conviction in men's hearts to devote themselves to teaching, producing pioneers like John Comenius and Christopher Dock. We who have such reams of reading material and a schedule crowded with other more exciting things to do, cannot appreciate books and the privilege to learn as they did.

Another method of learning is observation. To look around us is itself an education if we are of a mind to learn. In Romans 1:20, Paul instructs: "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse." The world God created testifies of His power. We "observe and learn." How can we see God's world so orderly, so useful, so suited to man, and not believe in a wise divine Mastermind behind it all?

We use observation also in adapting and harmonizing with the people around us. Human relationships makes up one of the most challenging and vital studies of our time. The manager of a business says, "It's hard to get good help these days." We see with near despair the corroding of the marriage relationships affecting someone in nearly every family group. Even in the church, Satan sometimes succeeds in sowing discord--prying apart dearest friends and causing distrust of leaders. If we can only observe these things going on around us and receive the admonitions of Romans 12:9, "Let love be without dissimulation (pretense). . ."! And Ephesians 5:32,33: "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Most learning is accompanied by some practice--putting to use the things we learn. In fact, the goal of learning is not in itself; it is in the practical use of that learning. Some of the things we learn in school will not be useful to us in future life.

How many know (or care) what a predicate nominative is or how to diagram a complex sentence? These are useful in school to help us learn other things. But the best learning is that which affects our Christian walk. Yes, we can learn to run a business and accomplish the technical skills of building, inventing, or manufacturing. But to learn to walk and talk with God, to know Him and please Him, and to harmonize with our fellow-travelers will count for eternity and give us the best in this life, too. Let us learn from experience, by study, and by hearing and doing. Let us ask for wisdom from above. "Teach me to do thy will: for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness." (Psalm 143:10) --L.C.

THE TEACHER (OR PARENT)

Lord, who am I to teach the way
To little children day by day,
So prone myself to go astray?

I teach them knowledge, but I know
How faint the flicker and how low
The candles of my knowledge glow.

I teach them power to will and do,
But only now to learn anew
My own great weakness through and through.

I teach them love for all mankind
And all God's creatures, but I find
My love comes lagging far behind.

Lord, if their guide I still must be,
Oh, let the little children see
The teacher leaning hard on Thee.

--Leslie Pinckney Hill

OUR CHOICE

If in our hearts God does not rule,
Then we'll be used as Satan's tool.
In this we can not neutral be;
One of the two we serve, you see.

The evidence we can discern:
If in our heart vile lust does burn,
If evil works do have their way,
Then Satan there is holding sway.

Not only this; do we pretend
To walk with God, when we intend
To serve ourselves instead of Him,
Within our hearts to harbor sin?

We need to search and see in truth,
What attitudes and just what fruits
Are showing forth to those around;
The spirit fruits should there abound.

If we in truth will do our part,
The Spirit will to us impart
True wisdom and discernment too;
And guidance that will see us through.

His people we can then discern;
With love to them our hearts will burn.
Communion sweet will then be real;
God's peace within we'll always feel.

--James Beery

1998 ANNUAL MEETING

Pentecost is a special time for all Old Order Brethren. It is the time for Annual Meeting. We believe that as we convened in the Wakarusa meetinghouse that the Church of God--His house, was built up and fed much.

Friday meeting opened with Hymn 62. Kenneth M. called our attention to the purpose of the meeting, reminding us that although we are a tiny part of God's Church, we are called to relate to it. Hymn 284 was used. Prayers were offered for the Church and all men. Melvin C. then spoke, reminding us of our common level. As this is the general brotherhood council, the Old Brethren policy and confession of faith were read. No queries were presented, so time was given for preaching the Word. Harold R. read Acts 15. Leslie C. brought greetings from the West, and we sang Hymn 276. This hymn was used as an outline of his sermon. Jesus Christ is always the same! We want Holy Ghost leadership. God has planned His Church from the beginning. He has raised up the tabernacle of David, the tabernacle of the Spirit. (Amos 9:7,8)

I. *No wider is the gate.* It is not remodeling or redirection, but *death* to the old man.

II. *No sweeter is the cup; no slacker is the fight.* We must fight on today's battlefields--not the old ones. This includes the issues of the home and Christian school, and yes, evangelism!

III. We must *press* with enthusiasm and energy toward the mark.

IV. God has promised to be with us. We are God's *assembly*, we are His Church.

Testimonies were given by the deacons. Lloyd W. led Hymn 279 and among his thoughts was the Church as a living, moving organization for *whomsoever*! After prayer of thanksgiving for the Church, Melvin closed saying the Church is

the pillar and ground of truth and is on the offensive! We've a strong Leader!

We shared a meal together then, and in the evening the young folks gathered at the schoolhouse for activities.

Saturday morning began with Hymn 28 and the reading of Isaiah 53 after the traditional manner. Neal M. opened with Hymn 171. Christ gives us all things, so we want to worship Him. We are called to holiness so that Christ's blood can be effective in our lives.

Lloyd W. had I Peter 2 read and led Hymn 210. He spoke of Christ's seven last words:

I. The voice of forgiveness. (Luke 23:32)

II. The voice of reconciliation. (Luke 23:39)

III. The voice of love. (John 19;25-27) These deal with humanity. We are called to the same attitudes. Our words are important! (James 1) Christ did all things perfectly. We are to love our enemies, forgive all, and to love our families. The Bible speaks of a sword piercing Mary's heart! How it must have ached! We call her blessed.

IV. The voice of agony and loneliness. (Mark 15:33-34)

V. The voice of humanity. (John 19:30)

VI. The voice of victory. (John 19:30)

VII. The voice of trust and faith. (Luke 23:46) Surely He was the Son of God!

Leslie C. led in Hymn 493. Some of Christ's last words were "The Great Commission." They still apply! Christ is coming!

We likewise today ate the traditional common meal, and those who enjoyed singing sang afterwards in a circle out under the trees in the yard.

In the evening we again ("once more") came together to celebrate the service of self-examination, feet washing, the Lord's Supper (Lovemeal) and Eucharist.

Lloyd W. led the Communion service. Many good exhortations were heard. May we *never* forget what our redemption has cost and value it more that life itself!

On Sunday morning (Pentecost) we gathered for Morning Prayer at 7:30 A.M. Lloyd W. exhorted us. Hymn 161 was used. He (Christ) arose! This is the Lord's Day. Elder Daniel F. Wolf would say Jesus was born to die so He could conquer death. Because He lives, we can live! After breakfast together we again gathered for preaching. Hymns 176 and 90 were used and Acts 2 was read. Leslie C. preached. We're a new nation with a new song. Pentecost was a new day! It is fulfillment of prophecy. In Ezekiel 11:19-20 we read of the new land of the Spirit. In Ezekiel 37 we see how even dry bones can come to life by Christ's Spirit sent from the Father. Evidences of this Spirit-filled life are abundant. We forget those things behind us (the object lesson of the chambered nautilus.) Think of the martyrs! They had a song! We trust Him for the future. (The story of Julia K. Haussmann)

All the servants of the Word present then exhorted us briefly, with the deacons witnessing to it. Hymns 461, 177, and 476 were used. So many glorious truths about the Spirit of God were shared. I Tim. 4:14; Acts 19:1,2; Eph. 5:15-20; Col. 3:16,17; I John 4:1-6; and others were used. Prayers were offered, and Leslie reminded us to recommend seekers to read the Scriptures. Melvin closed, and we once again ate with each other.

We want to praise and thank our Heavenly Father in a special way for the Church and the manifold blessings that are ours! And we also want to remember those who as dear saints and martyrs have gone on before and are awaiting the resurrection of the body when the Church of all ages will forever be united and complete--complete in Him--our eternal Lord and God.

We want to thank all who made this possible, and thank God that all were given traveling mercies. Many friends and brethren from far and near attended. And so we invite all to go with us to our heavenly goal.

As we think of this, our mind seems to just want to burst out with this ancient hymn:

Come Holy Ghost, our souls inspire
And lighten with celestial fire. . .
All praise to Thine eternal merit,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
--ancient Pentecost hymn

Michael Harris
Goshen, Indiana

THE CAMDEN OLD BRETHREN MEETING HOUSE

(The following is the third in a series of articles on the various meeting houses used by the Old Brethren since their beginning.)

The May, 1922, number of the *Testimony of Truth* reported that, "The brethren at Deer Creek near Camden, Indiana, have commenced the erection of their meeting house; it is located on Brother Charles A. Bowerman's farm southwest of Camden." The September number says, "The brethren at Camden, Indiana, have their meeting house completed." It was built on the same plan and dimensions as the Rossville house."

It appears that by the end of the decade, membership had so dwindled that the meeting house was not used for a time. It was next used by the Old Order German Baptists (Petitioners). How long they used this house is not known, but Fred Flora says they held their annual conference there in 1929. By 1939 it was in the hands of the Old Brethren German Baptists (part of the Old Brethren before 1928).

In 1998 this latter group is using the Camden meeting house for regularly scheduled worship services, and the building remains as originally constructed. It is uncertain whether this is the second or third meeting house used by the Old Brethren in Indiana, as a meeting house near Goshen began to be used somewhere in the 1921-23 timeframe.

Some of the members living in the Camden area in the 1920's were John and Sidnia Leedy, Lloyd and Bertha Flora, James and Phoebe Morris, Perry and Lizzy Miller, Adolph and Abby Endress, John and Susan Mussleman, Lydia Metzger, Jonas and Emma Flora, Alice Austin, Ann Flora, Adam Blocher's, and Daniel Miller's. Very likely Mary Yost should be on this list also.

--Harold Royer
Goshen, Indiana

BECAUSE SOMEONE CARED

Because someone cared, I have hope for tomorrow;
Because someone prayed, the light has shown through;
Because someone loved me, I'm seeing my Father
So firm and compassionate, tender, and true.

Because someone gave me a faithful example
And carefully helped me remove from my way
The roadblocks that hindered my ongoing journey--
Because someone did this--I'm happy today!

I'm sure that you too, if you're following Jesus,
Could say there was someone who pointed the way;
Yes, someone was there when you stood at the crossroads,
To be your example, to care, and to pray.

Then, friend, are you willing to be just a "someone"
The Father can use as a vessel of love
To point other souls to the way of salvation,
To guide erring feet to the Father above?

It doesn't take eloquence, money, or wisdom;
It doesn't take fame or a quick, ready tongue,
But only a soul who's been washed at the fountain,
A heart with a message, and lips with a song.

God could have sent angels to give us the message,
Or He could have thundered it down from the sky.
Instead, He has chosen that mortals who know it
Be charged with the duty to sound out the cry.

Dear Lord, make us willing to answer Your bidding.
Unhindered, by us may Your message be shared,
That many may yet be a part of the kingdom
Because Jesus saved them--and somebody cared.

By Mary Hursh in *The Christian Example*

COMMUNION MEETING NOTICES

Eastern District--Wakarusa Meeting House-------October 3 & 4

California--Salida Meeting House----------October 17 & 18

All are welcome to attend these meetings.

BIRTH

TATE -- A daughter, Elizabeth Rose, born August 11 to Bill and Karen Tate of Bremen, Indiana.

ADDRESS CHANGES

James Beery	(765) 893-4119
Eric Brubaker	20715 Ponderosa Way Tuolumne, CA 95379-9749 (209) 928-1387
Ron Cable	4567 West Shanklin Hill Road Williamsport, IN 47993
Jesse Cover	19200 Cherokee Rd
Buford Flora	3014 W. 575 S. Williamsport, IN 47993 (765) 893-4126
Catherine Hitch	25548 Hwy. 108 Mi Wuk Village, CA 95346
Jeff Hilty	64200 S. R. 19 Goshen, IN 46526 (219) 862-1222
Ken Johnson	(209) 928-1856
Matthew Martin	(219) 862-4134
Ralph Stalter	(219) 831-4642

Conformity to worldly customs converts the church to the world, but it never converts the world to Christ.

From the John Strickler collection

MIRACLES

Of all the knowledge the human mind can attain to, there is none more needful than to know and relate to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believes. Outside of this, man is under the wrath of God. (John 3:36) The enemy of the Gospel is the one that made it needful for it to come.

Satan in his efforts to hinder and prevent the Gospel of Christ, was no match against the wisdom and power of God in declaring it. Satan, unable to prevent the Gospel of Christ, is also unable to hinder any man that will keep faith and trust in the salvation the Gospel promises. For man to keep this faith and trust, he must keep faith in Christ's powers He revealed to prove His validity and authority over all else.

One of the attacks on the Gospel of Christ in our day is to question the miracles Jesus performed in vindicating the Gospel. We hear or read of professed Christianity that finds the miracles of Jesus a source of either difficulty or embarrassment--thinking they did not really happen. The natural storm wasn't stilled; the dead were not raised; the blind did not receive their sight; the sick were not healed, etc. This is Satan's attack against the living Christ--to hinder the believer from believing that He can still the storm of life--both human and natural. The storm that is stilled in the human heart displays the greater power.

Philip, the apostle (with many others) was doubting Jesus and who He was. He personally asked Jesus about who He really was, and Jesus told him, "Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves." (John 14:11 NIV)

If we doubt the miracles Jesus performed while on earth, we doubt whether we will see and experience His greatest miracle--that is a transformed heart and mind that is separated unto God.

--Kenneth Martin

FOR YOUTH

A Hint from a Cripple

The train was crowded, and people were standing on the platforms and in the aisles. Those that could get no seats took this opportunity to express themselves in no uncertain terms about the railroad company and its poor management. Nor was the tone in which they spoke very patient. Some declared they had been standing for hours. To cap the climax, at every station others came aboard, making the crowd that had to stand even denser and more uncomfortable.

One of these newcomers was a cripple, who had to be brought in by others. As the passengers made way for him, one of them repeated his complaint, "Yes, we've been standing here for three hours."

The invalid looked at the complainant and said quietly and impressively: "You are very fortunate."

That remark did it. The presence of the cripple brought home to the tired passengers that they had much more cause to be grateful than to be disgruntled. --Selected

---

CHILDREN'S PAGE

Following the Recipe

Sadie pushed a chair up to the kitchen counter where her nine-year-old sister Carol was mixing pancakes. Climbing onto the chair, she watched Carol measure flour, salt, sugar, and baking powder into the sifter. Each time, she carefully leveled the ingredients off at the top of the measuring cup or spoon.

"Why do you do that?" Sadie wanted to know.

"I level it off so we have just the right amount of each thing in the pancakes. Then the pancakes will be very good," responded Carol as she sifted the dry ingredients into a bowl.

Breaking eggs into a cup, she used a wire whisk to lightly beat them. Next, she put margarine into the skillet to melt it. When the margarine was melted, she carefully poured the eggs,

margarine, and milk into the bowl with the dry ingredients. Using a big spoon, she quickly stirred the liquid into the dry ingredients with only a few strokes, just as the recipe instructed.

Once the pancakes were fried to a beautiful golden brown, the family sat down at the table to enjoy them.

"What wonderfully delicious pancakes!" Daddy exclaimed.

"They are so fluffy and tender!" Mother added.

Big brother Tom just kept eating one pancake after another, which told Carol that he, too, thought they were just delicious.

Then four-year-old Sadie told how she had watched Carol mix up the pancake batter. "She measured everything real careful so the pancakes would be good," she revealed.

Now, children, are you following God's recipe for your life "real careful" so that your life will be a good one and be blessed of the Lord? What are some of the instructions in God's recipe? "Children, obey your parents. . ." "Honour thy Father and thy Mother . . ." "Be ye kind one to another. . ." ". . . Forgiving one another. . ." "Lie not one to another. . ." Can you think of more?

Linda Frick, Gettysburg, Ohio

THE PILGRIM
19201 Cherokee Rd.
Tuolumne, CA 95379

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SONORA, CA
PERMIT # 10

THE PILGRIM

VOL. 45 OCTOBER-NOVEMBER, 1998 NOS. 10 & 11

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." I Peter 2:11

SONGS OF LOVE AND PRAISE

Sing to the Lord of harvest;
Sing songs of love and praise;
With joyful hearts and voices
Your hallelujahs raise.
By Him the rolling seasons
In fruitful order move;
Sing to the Lord of harvest
A song of grateful love.

By Him the clouds drop mercies;
The deserts bloom and spring;
The hills leap up in gladness;
The valleys smile and sing.
He filleth with His fullness
All things with large increase;
He crowns the year with goodness,
With plenty and with peace.

Heap on His sacred altar
The gifts His goodness gave,
The golden sheaves of harvest,
The souls He died to save.
Your hearts lay down before Him
When at His feet ye fall,
And with your lives adore Him ,
Who gave His life for all.

Selected

THE PILGRIM is a religious magazine published in the interests of the members of the Old Brethren Church. Subscription rate: $5.00 per year. Sample copies sent free on request.
Publishing editor: Leslie Cover
Address: THE PILGRIM, 19201 Cherokee Rd., Tuolumne, CA 95379

GIVING THANKS

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High: To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night." (Psalm 92:1,2)

To read through these verses from an ancient writer is good. To understand their meaning and live our their advice is better. Four activities of man are recommended here that are "good things." We can picture the writer dipping his sharpened quill into the ink and scratching these words on the parchment. Possibly the writer was David since he speaks of "an instrument of ten strings." A frown of regret may have mixed with smiles of joy and relief as he thought back over the years. There had been times of loneliness, of sorrow, of danger and victory, of temptation. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, he wrote of these four responses of man to his merciful Creator:

TO GIVE THANKS

The time of national thanksgiving is only one occasion to be thankful. Often we express to one another that God has been so good to us. We could fill the sixteen pages of *The Pilgrim* just recounting His blessings. By the famines in other parts of the world, we are once again reminded of God's blessings of food to our people. Children, undeserving of such misery, suffer when the elders of the nation quarrel, as in Sudan with its ongoing civil war. We look on from our loaded tables, and cannot begin to imagine what it would be like to be hungry.

When I was a boy, though our family was not wealthy, we never went hungry. There was not always a large variety, but we learned to appreciate our food. My mother would quote:

"Whate'er you waste or throw away
You'll live to want another day."

It should grieve us to see food left on plates. Our nation is so affluent that families can go to a restaurant, order expensive meals, and leave with half of the food uneaten. Even Christian people, blessed all their lives with abundance, sometimes seem unaware of wasteful practices like pouring fruit juice down the drain, trimming vegetables wastefully, throwing out half the apple with the core, and even discarding good left-overs.

To give thanks is a sacred duty; to conserve what God gives is a demonstration of that thankfulness. We might reason that what we waste will not find a way to the hungry. This may be true, but the principle remains. If enough people in the affluent countries make good use of their food, it will have a world-wide effect. May God reveal more to us of how to avoid waste and to share with those in need.

TO SING PRAISES

We praise those we admire. Sincere praise is "comely." (Psalm147:1) It looks good. We also like to receive it, though we do not deserve it. Only God has the perfection that deserves unlimited praise.

As we grow in the Christian life, we move from a place of selfishness (where we do not care to praise *anyone*) to a position of appreciation for the marvelous grace of God that rescues us from the pit of sin and self. Here we can offer "the sacrifices of praise" to God who in Christ gives us the new song. If we would learn how, when, why, and where to praise Him, we should read often the last seven Psalms. "Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord."

Besides the Scriptures, God has given praise songs to His people through the centuries. The Doxology (Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow) has possibly been sung more times by our people that any other. Francis Scott Key wrote # 64 entitled "Gratitude" in our hymn book. The second verse is special:

Praise, my soul, the God that sought thee,

Wretched wanderer, far astray;
Found thee lost and kindly brought thee
From the paths of death away;
Praise, with love's devoutest feeling,
Him who saw thy guilt-born fear,
And the light of hope revealing,
Bade the blood-stained cross appear.

TO SHEW FORTH THY LOVINGKINDNESS IN THE MORNING

Oh, how kind He is! I shudder when I hear or read of those who question God or charge Him with a mistake or challenge His judgment. God does not cater to our whims of imagined need. We are like children who do not *know* what is best for us. But God does know best, and He is kind. Even when God allows us to have trouble, it is an act of kindness, because He knows what will develop Christian character in us if we will only submit to His working.

As an example, this morning it is raining steadily as I write. I would like to have done some jobs before our wet season came--like fixing the woodshed roof. Also a work day at the meeting house may be hindered by the rain today. Instead of regretting, we must "shew forth God's lovingkindness *in the morning*." He loads us daily with good things. A little boy's definition of lovingkindness was this: "When someone gives you a piece of bread, that is kindness. If he puts jam on it, that is *loving*kindness." One devoted saint was being thankful for his meagre material blessings, and he murmured, "All this and Jesus, too!"

AND THY FAITHFULNESS EVERY NIGHT

By the words *every night*, we might understand the *close of the day* or the *time when we sleep*. God is faithful in both times.

God doesn't sleep. He watches over us while we are helpless and vulnerable. Mothers certainly understand this as

they remain responsive to their infants' cries even while they sleep. Bare feet on a cold floor, jumping from a warm bed, sacrificing her own comfort--all these mean little beside the love Mother has for her very own child. God instills this love in human hearts that we might understand His greater love and faithfulness to us.

When Jesus left the beauties and comforts of heaven and came to ugly earth, it must have been like a long dark night, a sacrifice of His own will. He knew that His coming was the only way we could be saved. It was for the joy set before Him that He was faithful through that miserable night away from the Father. Even the sun refused to shine as He suffered on the cross. Talk of faithfulness of fathers and mothers, but Jesus' faithfulness outshines them all.

Then at the close of the day, God is faithful to give us rest. Whether it be operating a chain saw or tractor, standing all day in a workshop, milking cows, or working at a computer, we get tired. How welcome is the time of rest! How good and faithful is our God to make this provision! And it comes every night.

Another example of the every night faithfulness of God is when our earthly life comes to a close, otherwise know as old age. Ecclesiastes 12:1 calls this "the evil days" and the years "when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them." This is true for the natural man. But Isaiah 40:28-31 tells of the blessings available even in this time if we "wait upon the Lord." "He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. . . they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

My father wrote a lot in his last years. On the occasion of the death of Sister Sophia Baker, who lived over ninety years, he wrote in part:

Rest, for the day was long,
Time now for sleeping

With all the silent throng,
Angel watch keeping.

Rest, for the weary hours
Through years to number
Sunshine and cloud and showers;
Now peaceful slumber.

Surely God is good to us. He has a place of rest in Christ when we yield our lives to His loving care. He daily loads us with blessings to numerous to count. Surely we owe to Him our praise and thanksgiving, our love and service expressed by serving one another. --L.C.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IN MEXICO

We entered Mexico at Aguas Prietas about 9:00 A.M. on Saturday, July 25, 1998. We were given the "green light" to go so passed through the border with no problem. After finding the main highway east and driving for about forty-five minutes, we happened into another *aduana* check who told us we needed to return to the border to get all our paper work in order. After about two and a half hours, we had all our papers signed and were on our way. We were impressed with the lush green, high desert beauty we saw all around us as we drove to Cualtemoc where we spent the night and had a nice day Sunday with a friend and several other believers.

Monday we bought what was necessary, changed our money, and traveled on through Creel to Humira. We found Jose Macias, our contact and helper, at home; and he showed us to the cabin on the river. The rugged countryside with its steep canyon walls, rivers and cliffs was awe inspiring. Tuesday we returned to Creel and purchased about $75.00 worth of flour and ground corn to distribute the next day in Pamachi.

Wednesday we rose early and traveled about three hours to the little village of Pamachi. While the road was good for a dirt road, there were several treacherous spots, and we continually thanked God for His mercies. Pamachi is located at the top of a mountain looking out over the Copper Canyon. We met with cultural and civic chiefs and presented the possibility of establishing a work there. They were open to the idea but said that they would have to talk to the rest of the community about it before giving an answer. We then distributed the food which was graciously and gratefully accepted. By the time we left, quite a thunder storm had settled in. We got stuck in the mud once on the way out.

Friday, Saturday, and Sunday we visited other small groups of Christians, washed clothes, visited the river, and enjoyed the fellowship with the Tarahumara and our beautiful surroundings.

Earlier in the week we had hoped to go back to Pamachi and camp, but Jose had invited us to a camp further north, and we felt that with the roads being so wet from daily thundershowers, we had better not try to go back to Pamachi alone. So Monday we traveled to Madera where we were supposed to have met Jose before traveling the dirt road to the camp. As we filled up on gas, we were told by the gas station attendant that Jose thought we were ahead of them, so they went on up the road. We hurried to catch up. All the directions we got said basically, "You can't miss it; just keep going." So, after going much farther than seemed reasonable, and running into others we could ask for instructions, we retraced our path until almost dark and set up camp along the road. About midnight we were wakened by two vans full of people who stopped, got out, and began talking. I went out to talk to them and found out that they too were headed to the camp and, although they had missed the turn earlier on, were sure the camp was on the last main road that headed south. Tuesday morning we had just broken camp and had a quick

bowl of cereal when we saw Jose's truck on the ridge above us. We were thankful to have a guide to follow and quickly jumped into the van.

The week at camp was very nice. We had some good conversations with many who are working with the Tarahumara in the area. Several Mexican pastors taught the young folks excellent lessons about following the Lord, serving Him in their daily lives, seeking His will, and following His will about missions and other important topics as well as singing hymns and playing soccer and volleyball. We met a few Americans who knew friends of ours and had worked with other friends in missions to the Tarahumara. We were glad to have had the contact and fellowship.

Saturday morning we pulled out at 4:00 A.M. with everyone except Dad asleep in the van. We recrossed the border about 12:00 noon.

As we talk about the trip we have much to be thankful for and much to pray about. We are thankful that we have been so richly blessed, that we were privileged to take this trip, that God kept everyone safe and healthy, that the van worked well, (and on and on). We moan as we think of all those little villages like Pamachi without a faithful witness for Christ. We pray for workers to go out into the harvest. We pray for the families who have lost little ones. We pray that our short visit and that of others will plant and water so that God may give the increase. We pray that God would allow us to be used somehow, someway to spread His Gospel and share His love and the truth of His Word.

Bart Taylor
Tuolumne, California

Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.
II Corinthians 9:165

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN MEETING HOUSE

(The following is the fourth in a series of articles on the various meeting houses used by the Old Brethren since their beginning.)

In 1852 the Lutherans erected for a house of worship, a simple frame structure about three miles west of Goshen, Indiana, at the intersection of what is now county roads 15 and 32. This building measures thirty-one by thirty-four feet and is of very plain design. There is no church style architecture nor any ornamentation on either the building or it furnishings. Entrance was through two single doors spaced twelve feet apart, one for men, the other for women. The interior was all one room with a wood-fired heating stove in the center. The Lutherans abandoned this property in 1894, and it grew up in weeds and brush.

The Old Brethren began using this meeting house some time around 1921 to 1923 and quit using it after the 1928-29 separation.

A cemetery next to the church property was used by the Old Brethren for one burial, that of Jeremiah Jacobs. Following is the obituary as published in the May, 1922, *Testimony of Truth:*

Jacobs--Brother Jeremiah Jacobs was born at York, Pa. April 25, 1838, and died at the home of Brother Ralph and Sister Ruth Peters, near Goshen, Elkhart County, Indiana, March 19, 1922, age 83 years, 10 months, and 24 days. His death was very sudden. He was blind for about 7 years. His companion died a good many years ago. He had no near relatives, and he came to Indiana about 7 years ago, and had a home among the members, and was cared for by the members of the Old Brethren Church. Was at the visit a good many years, and firm in the faith with the Old Brethren. A while before his death, he was anointed according to the instructions given by James 5:4. Realizing the nearness of his dissolution,

he already had his coffin made, in which his remains may be consigned to the tomb in a plain way, and not after the style of the world. His funeral was conducted by the Old Brethren, from Job 14:14. --S. W. Yost

Miriam Peters Comstock, daughter of Ralph and Ruth Peters, says this funeral was held in the St. John meeting house, but she does not know whether this house was in regular use by the Old Brethren at that time.

The writer has memories of attending services here as a child. This meant a seven mile, one way, trip by horse drawn vehicle. A few names of families who were part of this congregation in this era are S. W. (Sammy) and Amanda Yost, Reed and Rosa Nead, William (Will) and Francis (Fanny) Miller, Reuben and Stella Flora, Kate Flora, Levi and Catherine (Katie) Ganger, Isaac and Mary Wagner, Elizabeth (Betty) Graybill, Daniel and Susan Graybill, Jacob and Laura Cripe, Lester and Carrie Moser, John and Francis Hufford, and Ralph and Ruth Peters.

After 1929 the building received only minimal maintenance and began to decline until a local historical society took an interest in its restoration as a historical landmark. In the last decade, a new fieldstone foundation was laid, a new wood shingle roof was applied, new yellow poplar siding was installed, and the building was painted. In 1998 St. Johns meeting house is in prime condition, but it is unused except for occasional historical society meetings. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Harold Royer
Goshen, Indiana

Happiness is often the result of being too busy to be miserable.

GRATITUDE

Thanks be, O God, for the great love
You daily send from heaven above,
That calls us when we go astray
And keeps us in the narrow way.

Thanks be, O God! You sent Your Son,
To save us from the sin we'd done.
Because of love, You made this way,
So we can live in endless day.

Thanks be, O God! We have Your Word
To verify the truths we've heard;
And if we search this Word each day,
'Twill purify this sinful clay.

Thanks be, O God! Your Spirit's here
To help us keep our conscience clear;
And if we yield, 'twill mold this clay
And never let us go astray.

Thanks be, O God! Though made of clay,
We need not then e'er go astray;
For if we yield along the way,
You'll guide us safe to endless day.

--James Beery

O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever. Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy.

Psalm 107:1,2

PARABLES

God, in wanting to restore fallen man to His honor and worship, gave His only begotten Son to accomplish this. For this to happen He needed to win and captivate the intellectual mind to know Him as Sovereign and capable of performing that which He promised.

Satan knew who Jesus was and what His mission was, and tried to prevent it when He was born, when He began His ministry, and finally, in his ignorance, took His life. (I Cor. 2:8)

For man to know and receive the Spirit of Christ, we need to learn of Him and what He sacrificed. As the mind gains this knowledge, it motivates our behavior. If this knowledge is of the Spirit of Christ, we will become like Him and will bear fruits that will honor His name, "In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." (Col. 2:3)

Jesus first revealed Himself by His physical powers. This attracted multitudes to Him, but when He told them His mission and that He wanted to save them from their sins and give them eternal life, and that He needed man's total being for this to happen--this created a problem for much of humanity (and still does). Therefore when their hearts reject this, they are unable to conceive the truth and reality of salvation and are kept in the bondage of sin.

Jesus knew the problem man had with His message. Therefore He taught in parables. These were lessons of nature that all men could understand, like sowing seeds and the conditions of the soil, the value of precious earthly things, and man's response to this, etc. After Jesus would reveal a parable, He said, "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear." Those that were near to Him in the Spirit asked Him about the parable. He answered by saying, "Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all

these things are done in parables: That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them." (Mark 4:11,12) All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables: and without a parable spake He not unto them. "And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them." (Matt.13:14,15) Jesus continues on and says, "But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear."

The evidence of being able to see with our eyes, and hear with our ears is in fruit bearing and being able to prove in picture language the meaning of the parables. To do this is now the responsibility of all believers. This is now the testimony that will judge the world. "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid." (Matt. 5:14) All believers are called to this ministry. To not feel accountable to this and not prove it in picture language, what we think we have will be taken from us and given to him that hath.

--Kenneth Martin

BAPTISM

Lori Myers was baptized in the Indiana congregation on October 11, 1998. May God be with her as she serves in the Church of Jesus Christ.

Lori's address: 402 1/2 E. Water, Greenville, OH 45331

BIRTHS

HILTY -- A son, Shaun Damar, born September 24 to Jeff and Allison Hilty of Goshen, Indiana.

FLORA -- A daughter, Jillian Kate, born October 17 to Greg and Elisabeth Flora of Nappanee, Indiana.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Verl Brubaker: 19204 Cherokee Rd.
Tuolumne, CA 95379-9605
(209) 928-3356

Darrell Martin: 1439 Montclair Dr.
Modesto, CA 95350-0561

Keith Rhoades: 28772 C.R. 44
Nappanee, IN 46550
(219) 862-4142

Merrill Royer: 24975 C.R. 40
Goshen, IN 46526-9209
(219) 862-1420

Eddie Wagner: 4545 Overland Place
Salida, CA 95368

There is wisdom in taking time to care;
There's wisdom in giving and wanting to share;
There's wisdom in grace and making amends;
There's wisdom in having and keeping good friends.

Selected

CHILDREN'S PAGE
A First-Day-of-School Lesson

"Amber cried at school today!" Roger tattled as he climbed into the car after the first day of school.

"Why did you cry?" Mother asked Amber, who was a new first-grader.

"Because I got one wrong on my paper, and Jenny got hers all right. Teacher said we both did a good job, but mine should have all been right, too!" Amber declared.

"What was wrong with the one you had wrong?" wondered Mother.

"I forgot to do it," a trembly little voice answered. "I knew the answer, so I should have gotten 100 like Jenny did. I'm just as smart as she is!"

"Now wait a minute," Mother began. " Is that why you are upset about missing one? Is it your pride that hurts?"

When there was no answer from Amber, Mother continued, "You will need to do your best at your work. Check over your papers to make sure you didn't miss any. Then, when you get some wrong, you must accept the fact that you aren't perfect. Neither are you better than anyone else. Sometimes Jenny will probably miss one, and yours might be all right, but that certainly won't mean you are smarter than Jenny. Be willing to learn from your mistakes. That is being humble. In the Bible, James tells us that God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. That means that God does not accept people who are proud and think they know everything. It is the humble people who are willing to learn and change, that God accepts as His children. Can you understand that, Amber?"

Mother glanced at Amber in time to see her thoughtfully nodding her head, "Yes."

Roger then began chatting with Mother about other exciting things that happened on this first day of school. In a few

minutes, Mother looked over at Amber again and saw a relaxed, peacefully-sleeping little girl.

Linda Frick
Gettysburg, Ohio

PILGRIM POINTERS

Pilgrim, Seek Not Yet Repose

Pilgrim, seek not yet repose; Cast thy dreams of ease away;
Thou art in the midst of foes: Pilgrim, ever watch and pray!

Gird thy heavenly armor on; Wear it ever night and day;
Near thee lurks the evil one; Pilgrim ever watch and pray!

Hear the victors who o'ercame; Still they watch each warrior's way;
All with one clear voice exclaim, Pilgrim ever watch and pray!

Hear above all these, thy Lord, Him thou lovest to obey;
Hide within thy heart His Word; Pilgrim, ever watch and pray!

Watch, as if on that alone Hung the issue of the day;
Pray that help may be sent down; Pilgrim, ever watch and pray!

By Charlotte Elliot in *The Christian Hymnary*
Selected by Sharon See

THE PILGRIM
19201 Cherokee Rd.
Tuolumne, CA 95379

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SONORA, CA
PERMIT # 10

THE PILGRIM

VOL.45 DECEMBER, 1998 No. 12

"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." I Peter 2:11

GENTLE MARY LAID HER CHILD

Gentle Mary laid her Child
Lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undefiled,
To the world a stranger.
Such a Babe in such a place,
Can He be the Saviour?
Ask the saved of all the race
Who have found His favor.

Angels sang about His birth;
Wise men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth
Glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night;
All the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her Child
Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefiled,
But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth,
Beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth;
Hail the King of glory!

Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859-1933

THE PILGRIM is a religious magazine published in the interests of the members of the Old Brethren Church. Subscription rate: $5.00 per year. Sample copies sent free on request.
Publishing editor: Leslie Cover
Address: THE PILGRIM, 19201 Cherokee Rd., Tuolumne, CA 95379

RICHES OF GRACE THROUGH THE INCARNATION

Famous men have donated generously to the welfare of the poor. John D. Rockefeller gave half of his billion dollar fortune to noble causes. Financiers give to receive tax benefits. We all are instructed to share with those in need. But no gift of any magnitude can in any sense compare with the giving of Jesus Christ. Listen to Paul in II Corinthians 8:9: "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."

Men may give of their abundance. Alexander Mack shared his modest estate with brethren to pay fines imposed by the government for the stand they took for Christ. But Jesus owned all things. He came from ivory palaces to be born in a stable. He became poor. How did He through His poverty make us rich?

Paul, in the same letter (II Cor. 6:10) claims that he was involved in this too. ". . . as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things." Apparently there is more than one kind of riches. We naturally think of riches in terms of money or property or holdings of some sort. But these are not true riches, and these are not what Jesus won for us through His poverty.

In Jesus' sermon on the mount, He said, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth. . . But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven. . . For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. God intends for us to acquire the true riches. He warns us repeatedly about earthly riches or the wrong attitude toward them. Jesus said, "How hard it is for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!" But it seems we cannot amass too much of the heavenly

treasure. What are these riches that Jesus gives us through His poverty? Merchants capitalize on the lowly birth of Jesus. (They are looking for a "green" Christmas this year.) But this is not the enrichment Jesus offers.

Rich in faith. James 2:5: ". . . Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?" Faith is a treasure the poor can have in abundance, and on that basis, God chooses them for greater blessings.

Rich in good works. "Charge them that are rich in this world. . . that they be rich in good works." (I Tim. 6:17,18) Those that have this world's goods can be a blessing in the Kingdom if they use the riches well. However, this is only one type of good works. Even the poor can be encouragers, faithful promoters of the Gospel, and diligent laborers in prayer. Without the incarnation, when Jesus took on Him our nature and our poverty, no one would have the heavenly riches.

Riches of His grace. Ephesians 1:7: "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace," shows how it happened. Jesus was born to take on Him our flesh and blood, and then He poured out His blood to bring about redemption, forgiveness, and the riches of His grace. In hymn 64 by Francis Scott Key we have these words:

Let Thy grace, my soul's chief treasure
Love's pure flame within me raise;
And, since words can never measure,
Let my life show forth Thy praise.

The Laodicean Christians made the mistake of thinking they were rich when, by God's standard, they were "wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked." God's counsel to them was "buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear. . ." Could we

be making similar mistakes? When we buy clothes or a car or a house, do we rate them entirely by the price tag, or do we ask ourselves and God what these are worth in true values. What kind of testimony do they give? With whom do they identify us? Is our bank account or insurance policy enough to provide for us as we enter the seventh millennium of human history? Proverbs 11;4 tells us, "Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death."

There is more in the precious Word of God about the true riches and how we can possess these riches through Jesus. How we should praise Him for the incarnation of Jesus, the Son of God! What rejoicing there should be in our hearts and in the house of God for the poverty of Jesus that through His poverty we might be made rich! Some turned away from Jesus because of their riches, and some wisely ran to Him to receive the riches of His grace. **Those who have only the world's riches really have no cause to celebrate His birth into the world.** But those who value the true riches can sing with Samuel Kinsey, "Rejoice at the birth of your heaven-born King, Who grace and salvation to sinners doth bring." --L.C.

The following article is the second by Brother Bart telling us of his family's trip into Mexico this past summer.

NEEDS OF THE TARAHUMARA PEOPLE

Most generally the needs of the Tarahumara people fall of course into the two main categories of physical and spiritual needs. Their physical needs are for food, clothing, medical supplies and services, clean drinking water and some type of industry or employment. Their greatest spiritual need is obviously the need for the light of God's Word. The physical needs and the spiritual needs go hand in hand. It is hard for a people to see God's love or hear His Word when there are deep physical needs. On the other hand, the spiritual needs are so

extremely important that one must be careful to present the Gospel as separate from the physical provisions lest people develop a shallow, external interest in the Gospel for the purpose of gaining the physical provisions. The needs of the Tarahumara people are great.

One fact that will ring in my consciousness, perhaps for the rest of my life, was the statement that in one Tarahumara village of about 200 people, six children between the ages of two and four had died in the last twelve months. When questioned about this, the people responded that it was a combination of not having good water to drink and not having enough food. Children up to about age two are fed and provided with liquid through their mothers. About the time the children are two years of age, they no longer have the mother as a direct source of nourishment. These children now drink for themselves in the only source often available, the creek or river. Further, there is at times just not enough food to keep these little ones alive. By the time they pass four years of age, they have gained some resistance to the bad water, are bigger and stronger physically and so can go longer without food and can fight off diseases and infections more easily and are big enough to go out and get food for themselves.

Another of the physical needs is that for warm clothing. Many of the Tarahumara live above 9,000 feet. While much of the year is moderate in temperature, the cold, dry winter months can be very harsh. We were told that if ice forms or snow falls on some of the northern slopes, it will probably be there for several months.

The last physical need I will address is that of industry and employment. It seems that the Tarahumara people, for the most part, would work hard to try to provide for their needs. Many of them have small farms or handicraft skills that would be marketable if the market existed. Most of the men spend at least part of each year in the bigger cities where moral

conditions are bad. They are away from their families and are treated very badly by the general Mexican populace in order to try to earn a little money to take back to the village to help support the community.

And naturally, the greatest need is their spiritual need. The Tarahumara have their own indigenous religion which is tied closely to animism, idolatry, and appeasing "evil spirits." Where the Catholic Church is present at all, it tends to encourage these pagan practices along with immorality and drunkenness. It seems that many of the Tarahumara people are hungry for the truth of God's Word. Often when one shares the truth, there are individuals who want to hear, asking many questions to learn as much as possible.

What might be done for these shy, humble, peaceable people? Perhaps providing transportation to market for their goods, taking them to medical help, helping develop a market and industry for individual villages, and encouragement would help many of the physical needs. What would be the cost of drilling a well and installing a wind mill to pump the safe drinking water to a tank? A warehouse of simple medical supplies would be helpful in most communities. And finally, pray for workers to go out into the harvest for, "How then shall they call upon him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" (Romans 10:14)

Bart Taylor Tuolumne, California

THE FIRST CHURCHES

The first churches were governed alone by the New Testament and as long as the professors had no other rule among them, then it was that they worshipped God agreeably to the word and will--and furthermore there was not so much contention about the proper mode of worship; they could then all see alike. -Peter Nead

PILGRIM INDEX--1998

ARTICLES

A Child and the Bible -Sel.	Apr
Annual Meeting 1998 -Michael Harris	Sep
As Unto Me -Sel. by Philip and Annette Royer	Mar
Back to School -L.C.	Sep
Courage -Sel.	Feb
Dark Victory (Hymn Story) - Bess A. Olson (Sel.)	Jan
Earthly Treasures Will Decay -Ken Johnson	Jan
Forgiveness -L.C.	Jan
Giving Thanks -L.C.	Oct/Nov
God Is Good -L.C.	Jun/Jul
God's Peace -Sel.	Mar
God's Word -L.C.	Aug
How Great Thou Art -Sel.	Mar
Hurry! Time Is Running Out -Lester Showalter	Feb
Life in Christ -Michael Harris	Apr
Needs of the Tarahumara People -Bart Taylor	Dec
Personal Experiences in Mexico -Bart Taylor	Oct/Nov
Preceding Pentecost -L.C.	May
Remembering Grandpa -David Skiles	Feb
Repentance, the Forerunner of Salvation -Kevin Garber	Mar
Resurrection Now--For Us -L.C.	Apr
Riches of Grace Through the Incarnation -L.C.	Dec
Search Me, O God -Sel.	Feb
Strife -Calvin Johnson	May
Thank You -Tom and Cindi Anderson	May
True Beauty -L.C.	Feb
The Way That Seemeth Right -Sel. by Herman Royer	Aug
Valleys -L.C.	Mar

In private, watch your thought. In the family watch your temper. From the May, 1922 *Testimony of Truth*

POEMS

Acts 1:9 -Miriam Sauder	May
Alone -Ben Price (Sel.)	Apr
Because Someone Cared -Mary Hursh (Sel.)	Sep
Changed -L.C.	Apr
Deception or Truth -James Beery	Mar
Give of Your Best to the Master -Howard B. Grose (Sel.)	Sep
God Is Good -L.C.	Jun/Jul
Gratitude -James Beery	Oct/Nov
I Thirst -Gail Storkel	Feb
Looking Unto God -Samuel Longfellow (Sel.)	Mar
New Year Wishes (1896 Sel.)	Jan
Not Forgotten -James Beery	May
O Wonderful, Wonderful Word -J. L. Sterling (Sel.)	Aug
Our Children -Sharon See	Aug
Our Choice -James Beery	Feb & Aug
Pilgrim, Seek Not Yet Repose -Charlotte Elliot Sel by Sharon See	Aug
Pilgrims and Strangers -Rhoda Cripe (Sel.)	Dec
Praise the Lord -Eva Ham (Sel.)	Jun/Jul
Security -James Beery	Jan
Song of Love and Praise (Sel.)	Oct/Nov
Sowing Good Seed Sel. by Norman Cable	Feb
Spirit Power -L.C.	May
Stabat Mater -Sel. by Michael Harris	Apr
Till He Come -E. Bickersteth (Sel.)	Feb
The Clock of Time (Sel.)	Jan
The Last Hour (Sel.)	May
The Question -James Beery	Apr
The Reason -James Beery	Aug
The Teacher -L. P. Hill (Sel.)	Sep
To the Young -J. I. Cover	Mar

MEETING HOUSES OF THE OLD BRETHREN

Cober Church -Martha Cover	Jun/Jul
Rossville Meeting House -Harold Royer	Aug
Camden Meeting House -Harold Royer	Sep
St. John's Lutheran Meeting House -Harold Royer	Oct/Nov
The North Union Meeting House -Harold Royer	Dec

ATTRIBUTES OF CHRIST By Kenneth Martin

Knowing Christ	Jan
The Plan of Salvation	Feb
Eating His Flesh and Drinking His Blood	Mar
A Living Sacrifice	Apr
Jesus Christ: Our Advocate	May
Jesus Christ: Our Succour	Jun/Jul
For His Name's Sake	Aug
Miracles	Sep
Parables	Oct/Nov
Joy	Dec

FOR YOUTH

For Youth -Martha Wagner	Feb
The Use of Time --Sel.	Feb
That Cross -Jennifer Brandt	Mar & Apr
Jesus Is Our Token -Tricia Lengyel	Jun/Jul
A New Clean Heart -Jennifer Brandt	Aug
A Hint from a Cripple -Sel.	Sep

CHILDREN'S PAGE

Grandma's Visit -Linda Frick	Jan
The Black Spot -Linda Frick	Feb
Feed My Lambs -Everett Oyler	Mar
Rules for a Child at School -Christopher Dock (Sel.)	Apr
Chet Could Not Wait -Linda Frick	May
Honor Thy Father and Thy Mother -Linda Frick	Jun/Jul
That Little Girl's Mother Lied to Her -Linda Frick	Aug
Following the Recipe -Linda Frick	Sep
A First Day of School Lesson -Linda Frick	Oct/Nov
Can You Be Quiet? -Linda Frick	Dec

BAPTISMS

Simon Stalter	March 15
Bethany Royer	March 15
Joy Royer	March 15
Jessica Cover	March 15
Wanda Pletcher	April 26
Regina Bayer	May 17
Jennifer Brandt	June 14
Lori Myers	October 11

BIRTHS

Michael Aaron Beery	January 6
Addison Royal Johnson	January 3, 1997
Elias James Royer	February 21
Laban Thomas Royer	March 12
Wylan James Bowser	May 5
Jessalyn Rachel Coning	June 7
Austin Keith Moser	July 23
(Joseph) Craig Cover	July 24
Elizabeth Rose Tate	August 11
Shaun Damar Hilty	September 24
Daniel Joseph Wagner	October 7
Jillian Kate Flora	October 17

MARRIAGE

Matthew Martin and Sarah Cover	July 18

OBITUARIES

William Hitch	December 5, 1997	Jan
David Huffman	May 8, 1998	Jun/Jul
Bessie Huffman	July 5, 1998	Aug

OLD BRETHREN MEETING HOUSES, PAST AND PRESENT

THE NORTH UNION MEETING HOUSE

In 1876 the community southwest of Wakarusa, Indiana, built a house of worship one mile south and one and one-half miles west of town. This was a nondenominational effort, and the building was open to anyone in the community. Sunday services, Sunday schools, funerals, revival meetings, and singing schools were held here. A cemetery adjoined the building, and the location was named North Union. A similar project three miles south was called South Union.

By 1948 the building had not been used for many years except for an occasional funeral or special service, and it was in need of repairs. In that year a meeting of interested persons was called to decide whether to remove the building or to restore it to usable condition. About forty-five people attended, and it was decided to restore the building. Three trustees were appointed to oversee the work, and the project was considered complete by the following spring. Electric lights were installed for the first time.

At this time the Indiana Old Brethren congregation had begun a modest growth. Also, some folks from Ohio began to fellowship with the Indiana brethren in late 1947, so it was no longer suitable to meet in homes for worship services as had been done in northern Indiana since 1929. The Old Brethren agreed to accept responsibility for continued maintenance of the meeting house in exchange for its use. The first meeting of the Old Brethren in the North Union house was held May 1, 1949.

The building was simple in design with no ornamentation either inside or outside. Entrance was through a set of double doors at the north end which faced the road. There was also a single door in the southwest corner and another on the west

side. The interior was all one room with two hand fired stoves for heating. A curtain stretched across the south end separated an improvised kitchen area from the main auditorium. A small space was also partitioned off in the rear corner for a mothers' room. Water came from a hand pump on the west side of the house.

The Old Brethren used this meeting house until they built their own in 1968. The North Union Meeting House was torn down in August, 1982, by an Old Order Mennonite crew, and the salvageable material found its way into local farm buildings. The benches were stored for a time and are now being used by a young Old Order Mennonite settlement near Carson City, Michigan.

Among those awaiting the resurrection from the North Union Cemetery are the following: Edward Royer (1875-1964), Leah Royer Skiles (1894-1988), Reuben Flora (1881-1953), Stella Flora (1882-1972), Eleanor Skiles (1884-1962), and Larry Stalter (1940-1997). Eleanor Skiles was the second wife of John Skiles who gave ground for the Rossville meeting house in 1921.

In 1998 the only hint that there might ever have been a building at this site is the old pump.

Harold Royer
Goshen, Indiana

BIRTH

WAGNER - A son, Daniel Joseph, born October 7 to Danny and Donna Wagner of Dallas Center, Iowa.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Verl Brubaker 19194 Cherokee Rd
Darrell Martin 1539 Montclair Dr.
Eddie Wagner's phone: (209) 545-3232

JOY

We believe it is the desire of all men to experience the sensation of joy. It blesses our hearts and moves us emotionally to express it with our tongues and lives. This, in turn, will have an effect on those that hear us and observe our countenances. We believe joy is a necessary experience for our physical being to function properly. It brings healing to our bodies and minds that nothing else could do for us.

The Scriptures remind us of some of the experiences of man that bring joy to our hearts: like in harvest time, in physical deliverance from our enemies, the bridegroom in the presence of his bride, physical life and health, etc. These are natural experiences of life that most all men have in common, and they affect us all alike. The responses are basically the same in all languages and people.

We believe joy and happiness are God's will for all men. This was man's experience in the Garden of Eden. There was nothing that marred man's joy, happiness, and communion with God, but in man's disobedience this all changed. Man put himself under the bondage of suffering and death. Hebrews 2:15: "And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." God promised that in time He would deliver man from this bondage and would provide a way for man to again be restored to love and fellowship with Him and one another, and that joy and happiness would be man's lot if he responded to this deliverance.

When this promise began to reveal itself, it created such a glorious sensation that the heavens could not contain it. This took place in the night when most men were sleeping. And there were shepherds watching their sheep, "and, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings

of great joy, which shall be to all people." (Luke 2:9,10) The angel also told them what took place and where they could find this which came to pass. The effect it had on them, and also on Simeon and Anna and many others, is the effect it will have on all those that truly see Jesus: "And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God . . ."

With David of old we can say, "Thou hast made known to me the ways of life: thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance."

The Scriptures declare that the joy of salvation and the deliverance from the power of sin and the grave is the most excellent experience of body and soul, and the expression of this is by our tongue and countenance, the latter being the true expression. Proverbs 27:17: "Iron sharpeneth iron, so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." Our countenance is expressing the truth of our hearts. Is it expressing the "joy of the Lord"?

Kenneth Martin
Nappanee, Indiana

CHILDREN'S PAGE
Can You Be Quiet?

Have you heard the Old Testament story about the children of Israel walking around the city of Jericho once every day for six days, and seven times on the seventh day? After the seventh round on the seventh day, they all shouted, and the walls around the city fell down flat. This is the way the Lord chose to give Jericho to the children of Israel.

The Lord told Joshua everything He wanted the people to do. Joshua told the people all the commands of the Lord, and the people obeyed.

There was one command that I think would be very hard for some of us to obey. That command is given in Joshua 6:10,

"And Joshua had commanded the people, saying, Ye shall not shout, nor make any noise with your voice, neither shall any word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I bid you shout."

Jericho was a very small city compared to our cities today. We would probably call it a small town or village. Perhaps it was less than a mile that the children of Israel had to walk each day when they walked around Jericho. Some grown-ups can easily walk a mile in fifteen minutes, but this was a whole crowd of people walking together, with the priests carrying the Ark of God and seven other priests blowing rams-horn trumpets. It might have taken an hour or more to walk around the city each of the first six days, and seven hours or more on the seventh day. Everyone obeyed the command to not make any noise with their voices for all that time. Think of being in a crowd of people with other children right beside you. Could ***you*** have obeyed that command?

I remember when I was a young child, that sometimes in church I'd make a real quiet noise with my voice while the minister was preaching, thinking no one would hear me. But someone did hear me, and my parents soon quieted me. Now I hear other little children doing the same thing. We just like to talk and use our voices, don't we?

There are times, though, that we need to be completely quiet--in church, in class time at school, in family devotions, when adults are talking, and probably other times, too. Can you be quiet when you are told to?

What do you suppose would have happened if the children of Israel would not have obeyed this command? Do you think maybe the walls of Jericho would not have fallen down? We don't know. We just know that when God commands, He expects us to obey. When our parents and teachers command, they expect us to obey, too.

Linda Frick
Gettysburg, Ohio

PILGRIM POINTERS

Pilgrims and Strangers

We are pilgrims here and strangers,
Traveling to yon happy home;
We must not stop; we must not linger,
Though we toil and walk alone.

To linger and hang back there's danger
Where allurements all around
Which might make us miss the right way
Where the old landmarks are found.

If we turn away from sinning
And we watch on every side,
Then the Lord will help us ever
And no evil will betide.

By Rhoda A. Cripe in the *Testimony of Truth*, 1922

THE PILGRIM
19201 Cherokee Rd.
Tuolumne, CA 95379

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SONORA, CA
PERMIT # 10